



BRIEF



Rescue operation underway after a truck fell into the Kamla river after a portion of a bridge over the river collapsed, in Darbhanga district, Monday.

Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi: There will be no tour of Rashtrapati Bhavan for the general public from January 25 to 29 due to the Republic Day Parade and Beating the Retreat ceremony, according to an official statement issued on Monday.

Throat slit

Thane: A 47-year-old man died after a kite string got entangled around his neck and slit his throat while he was riding his two-wheeler in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Monday.

LeT chargesheeted

Jammu: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives were on Monday chargesheeted in a case related to grenade attack on a house in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir in 2021, resulting in the killing of a minor boy and injuries to several others, an official said.

Activist killed

New Delhi: The Vishva Hindu Parishad has claimed that the recent murder of a 16-year-old Bajrang Dal activist in Assam's Karimganj district was carried out by 'jihadis'. Sambhu Koiri was killed in Lowairpua area, about 50 km from Karimganj town, under Bazaricherra Police Station on January 7. Koiri was returning to Karimganj district after attending a three-day training camp of the Bajrang Dal in neighbouring Hailakandi district.

Weather: High 28 Low 14. MARKET: NIFTY 17,394.85, SENSEX 60,092.97. BULLION: GOLD 56,701, SILVER 70,054.

COLLEGIUM REJIG

Rijiju suggests restructuring of MoP

Oppn hits out

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD)

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has written to the Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud for the inclusion of government nominees in the collegium system on appointments to the higher judiciary and defended it as a "precise follow-up action" suggested by the apex court while striking down the NJAC Act.

Rijiju's early January letter to the CJI and the remarks on Monday come amid a tug-of-war between the government and the judiciary over the process of appointments of judges to the Supreme Court and high courts.

Besides several Union ministers, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has slammed the 2015 scrapping of the National



Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) by the apex court and claimed that the judiciary was encroaching on the domain of the legislature. The Opposition, however, hit out at the move, with Congress leader Jairam Ramesh saying that while reforms were needed, the government's remedy was a "poison pill" for the independent judiciary. It also alleged that it was an "orchestrated confrontation" by the government to "capture" the judiciary.

Officials said the Law Minister has sought the setting up of a "search and evaluation committee" with representation from the central and the state governments in the selection of judges for the Supreme Court and the High Courts respectively.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal dubbed the government's move as "extremely dangerous". "There should be absolutely no government interference in judicial appointments," Kejriwal said on Twitter.

Reacting to Delhi chief minister's remarks, Rijiju said the move is in line with the direction of the Constitution Bench to restructure the MoP (Memorandum of Procedure) of the collegium system.

"I hope you honour Court's direction! This is precise follow-up action of

the direction of the Supreme Court Constitution Bench while striking down the National Judicial Appointment Commission Act. The SC Constitution Bench had directed to restructure the MoP (Memorandum of Procedure) of the collegium system," the minister said on Twitter.

"The contents in the letter to hon'ble CJI are exactly in conformity with the observations and directions of the Supreme Court Constitution Bench. Convenient politics is not advisable, especially in the name of Judiciary. Constitution of India is supreme and nobody is above it," Rijiju said.

In November, Rijiju had said that the collegium system of making judicial appointments was "alien" to the Constitution.

SC declines to hear plea on Joshimath crisis

'HC should handle it as matter of principle'

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD)

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking the court's intervention to declare the crisis in Uttarakhand's subsidence-hit Joshimath a national disaster, saying since the state high court is seized of a "broad range of issues" it should hear it as a matter of principle.

As the lawyer for the petitioner submitted that people in Joshimath are dying, the top court told him curtly, "You don't want to use these proceedings for sound bytes in social media."

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala asked petition-



A resident of an area affected by the land subsidence reacts, in Joshimath, Monday.

er Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati to approach the Uttarakhand High Court with his petition.

"As a matter of principle, we should allow the High Court to deal with this. High Court is seized of a broad range of issues, we'll give you liberty to approach the High Court.

"The specific aspects which have been high-

lighted in these proceedings can be addressed before the high court for suitable redressal. We accordingly permit the petitioners either to institute a substantive petition before the high court so that it can be together with pending proceedings or intervene in the pending matter. The high court is requested to consider the grievance," the bench said.

The counsel for the Uttarakhand government submitted all the points raised by the petitioner have already been acted upon. Senior advocate Sushil Kumar Jain, appearing for the petitioner, said people are dying and urgent steps are needed for relief and rehabilitation of those affected by ground subsidence.

Rajya Sabha session from January 31

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD):

The 259th session of Rajya Sabha will commence on January 31 and end on April 6, a statement from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget 2023-24 on February 1.

"The President has summoned the Rajya Sabha to meet on Tuesday, the 31st January 2023, at New Delhi. Subject to exigencies of business, the Session is scheduled to conclude on Thursday, the 6th April 2023," the statement said.

Parliament's Budget Session will begin from January 31 with

President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The session will have 27 sittings and will continue till April 6 with a month-long recess to examine the budget papers, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi had said.

"Budget Session, 2023 of Parliament will commence from 31 January and continue till 6 April with 27 sittings spread over 66 days with usual recess. Amid Amrit Kaal looking forward to discussions on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Union Budget & other items.

Centre to states

'Ensure sufficient number of IAS officers before forwarding foreign study leave proposal'

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD)

The Centre on Monday rationalised the process of granting approval for study leave for abroad to IAS officers and asked the states to ensure availability of sufficient number of bureaucrats both in the cadre and on central deputation before forwarding such proposals.

Prior permission of the central government is mandatory for ex-India study leave for Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers by the state government concerned.

"In this context, it is felt necessary that a holistic appreciation of impact of such long study leave on

the overall cadre management both at the state as well as the central government level is needed before a well informed decision is taken both by the state while recommending and for Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to provide its approval," an official order said.

With this objective, it is felt necessary that while recommending ex-India study leave in respect of IAS officers, the requests of study leave/ex-India leave/extension to study leave may be considered in the light of availability of sufficient number of IAS officers in the cadre and for central deputation against the prescribed

norms of central deputation reserve, it said.

This would ensure that the functioning of the state and central government is not affected due to shortage of officers, said the order issued to chief secretaries of all state governments.

Accordingly, it is requested that while recommending the proposals of study leave abroad, the state governments should submit the details of IAS officers who have returned from such leaves during the last two years and the posting(s) given to them according to the practical knowledge and experience acquired during study leave.

Delivery agent chased by dog jumps off building, dies

Hyderabad, Jan 16 (PTD)

A food delivery executive, who had suffered critical injuries after jumping off the third floor of an apartment building here out of fear of being attacked by a chasing pet dog of a customer, succumbed at a hospital here, police said on Monday. The 23-year-old man sustained head injuries and was hospitalised following the incident on January 11 died on Saturday, even as the dog's owner has been booked on charge of causing death by negligence, the police said. The man, working with a food ordering and delivery platform, had gone to deliver a food parcel to the customer (dog's owner) at the apartment and the dog lunged at the door after it was opened.

Tribal outfit to start month-long yatra from Jan 17 to save' Parasnath hills

Jamshedpur, Jan 16 (PTD):

Tribal outfit Adivasi Sengel Abhiyan (ASA) announced it will kick off a month-long yatra from Tuesday to "free" the 'Marang Buru' (Parasnath hills) in Jharkhand from the "clutches" of the Jain community.

ASA activists headed by its president and former MP, Salkhan Murmu, will stage demonstrations in tribal-dominated 50 districts in Assam, Bihar, Odisha West Bengal and Jharkhand, a senior ASA functionary said.

"The Marang Buru Bachao Yatra will cover all tribal-dominated districts of the country before end-

ing in the last week of February," the ASA president said. On January 14, the ASA president wrote a letter to President Droupadi Murmu appealing to her to restore the sanctity of the place and hand over Parasnath hills to the tribals. Accusing the Jharkhand government of handing over Marang Buru to the Jain community, the former MP said the government has betrayed the tribals.

The ASA will organise a 'Marang Buru-Sarna Mahadharna' besides Rashtriya Adivasi Ekta Mahasabha in Ranchi on February 14.

Jains across the country have been demanding the

scrapping of a 2019 Jharkhand government notification designating Parasnath hills as a tourist place, fearing this would lead to an influx of tourists who may consume non-vegetarian food and liquor at their holy site. Even as the Centre stayed the Jharkhand government's move to promote tourism at the Parasnath hills after protests by Jains, tribals jumped into the fray staking a claim to the land and asking for it to be freed.

The Santhal tribe has a sizeable population in Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Assam and West Bengal and are nature worshippers.

Ensure party does not lose any of 9 state polls in 2023: Nadda

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD)

BJP president J P Nadda on Monday underlined the importance of the nine state assembly polls to be held this year in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and asked the party's national executive to ensure it does not lose in any state. Briefing reporters on Nadda's address to the key BJP body, whose two-day meeting began here on Monday, party leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the party president noted that the ongoing year was very important in the prelude to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The ruling party has been putting in place a number of exercises to strengthen its organisation to ensure that it comes back to power in 2024 at the Centre for a third term.

Nadda, in his closed-door address, lauded India's progress under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government. It has become the world's fifth-largest econ-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with BJP National President J.P. Nadda arrives for the BJP National Executive meeting, at NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi, Monday.

omy, second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones, third-largest manufacturer in the auto sector while the highway being built every day has risen to 37 km from 12 km earlier, the party president said.

Agnipath transformative policy, game changer in making armed forces future-ready: PM

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated the first batch of Agniveers on being the pioneers of the Agnipath scheme, asserting that it is a transformative policy and a game changer in strengthening the armed forces and making them future-ready.

Virtually addressing the new recruits, he said this "path-breaking" scheme will further empower women.

According to an official statement, the prime minister said the young Agniveers will make the armed forces more youthful

and tech-savvy. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called the Agnipath scheme one of the "most important and unprecedented reforms" in the armed forces.

Addressing the Agniveers, the prime minister said technologically-advanced soldiers will play a "key role" in our armed forces, and added that the current generation of youth especially has this potential and Agniveers will play a leading role in the forces in the times to come. The prime minister said "new India" is filled with renewed vigour and efforts are underway to modernise the armed forces and make them 'aatmanirbhar'

(self-reliant). "In the 21st century, the way wars are fought is changing," he said, speaking about the new fronts of contactless warfare and challenges of cyber warfare.

Lauding the potential of Agniveers, he said their spirit is reflective of the bravery of the armed forces which has always kept the flag of the nation flying high. "The experience they will acquire through this opportunity will be a source of pride for life," he added. The prime minister concluded by saying that they are the ones who are going to provide leadership to the nation in the 21st century, the statement said

quoting Modi, who also added that the new recruitment scheme will further empower women.

The prime minister said he looks forward to seeing women Agniveers in all three forces, noting that they are leading armed forces on various fronts and cited examples of women posted in Siachen and driving modern fighter planes.

Defence Minister Singh said the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has taken a number of decisions to empower the nation, terming the Agnipath scheme as one of the "most important and unprecedented reforms", an official statement said.

Central Parliamentary Committee praises state govt for SC/ST welfare

Raipur, Jan 16:

The members of the Central Parliamentary Committee paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office today during his two-day visit to the state. The Committee, headed by Dr (Prof) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki appreciated the work being done by the State Government for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. They shared their experiences of Chhattisgarh visit with the Chief Minister and also appreciated the 'Prayas' schools.

The Chief Minister raised the demand for the return of the vacant land of mines in scheduled areas of the state to the state government and said that the state government wanted to do development work to promote



tourism activities by creating water bodies in these areas. He also demanded extension of rail line till Jagdalpur via Rawghat for smooth traffic in Bastar zone, amendment in provisions of Forest Act for carrying out development work in forest areas and re-starting of closed trains on Mumbai-Kolkata route. Secretary, Tribal Welfare Department, DD Singh was also present. The Central Parliamentary Committee has come to Raipur on a two-day visit

to study the social and educational status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. Baghel informed the members of the Central Parliamentary Committee in detail about the steps being taken for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in Chhattisgarh. He said that apart from better facilities for education and health, efforts were being made to provide maximum employment opportunities in the

scheduled areas. The focus of the state government is on the fact that the schemes should bring positive changes in the social and economic condition of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and increase their income, he said.

About 44 percent of Chhattisgarh's land area is covered by forests and there are dense forests in these scheduled areas, due to which there is a problem in various development works, the Chief Minister said. Stating the need for amendment in the provisions of the Forest Act, Baghel urged the committee to initiate necessary amendments in the provisions of the Forest Act. During the meeting with the Chief Minister, Jagannath Sarkar, Neeraj Dangi, Dr V Shivdasan, Kamakhya Prasad, Virendra Kumar were also present.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION



With lack of parking the Sheetala Manta mandir area in capital city witnesses traffic-jam and congestion on daily basis.

BJP Co-op cell alleges massive irregularities in Sugar factory

Charges shortage of sugar worth Rs 12.36 cr due to negligence of officers and corruption; demands action against guilty officers

Raipur, Jan 16:

The State convener BJP's Co-op Cell Shashikant Dwivedi charged of shortage of sugar worth Rs 12.36 crore due to sheer negligence of the officers and rampant corruption in Maa Mahamaya Sahakari Shakkari Karkhana (MSSSK) in Gram Kerta of Surajpur district. He informed that in view of complaints related to regular shortage in the sugar stock in the factory, the Co-operative Ministry of the state government had formed investigation team many times and on which the Addl. Registrar and investigation officer Hq's HK Nagdev and Asst. Registrar and Asst. inves-



tigation officer Vikas Khanna were appointed to conduct investigation, but till date no action has been taken. BJP co-op cell demanded action against the guilty officers of the sugar factory at the earliest.

Addressing a press conference State convener BJP Co-op Cell (BJPCC) Shashikant Dwivedi informed that in compliance to the order issued, the investigation team submitted its report and there were surprising revelations in it. Dwivedi informed that many lacunae were found in the physical verification done in the godown of the Sugar factory. This include improper and non-scientific stacking of sugar bags in the

factory's godown. Finally it was based upon the reports. The MD of the factory and Godown in-charge informed that due to blasting near the sugar factory, a labourer died coming beneath the stacks of sugar bags and therefore the stacking has been done in another manner. On asking about stack-wise information and not making its display, the management of the Sugar Factory could not give any answer. In this way with unscientific stacking, not displaying stack-wise information and making tall stacks even after an accident of death were found to be correct. At the same time the logic given by the factory management did not ap-

peared to be appropriate and it was very much evident that to avoid proper count of sugar bags stacked, the factory management has done it in such a manner and this speaks of lackadaisical an attitude of the factory management, he alleged.

Dwivedi further informed that in the factory's register on 28 April 2021, all of sudden an additional stock of 2320 MT of Molasses was shown and it is impossible to have such a stock on just one day. Whereas as per factory's document of 22 March 2021, it was shown that production of Molasses has been stopped. Therefore on the basis of documents of factory, the

quantity of recorded Molasis on physical verification was found to be 1641 MT higher. Dwivedi charged that there is huge difference in the report related to Molasses sent to the GoI and the information in the factory. In the same way the information about PP bags too is incorrect and this makes it aptly clear that there is massive irregularity and sheer negligence in the updation of documents and what is actually happening in the Sugar factory and due to which there is irregularity in the documents of gunny bags purchase.

Among others from BJP Co-op Cell Devji Bhai Patel, Somesh Pandey Media in-charge, Amarjeet Bakshi co-media in-charge, Social media in-charge Abhishek Tiwari, District convener (City) Neelam Singh, District convener (rural) Raipur-Shirish Tiwari and Vikas Agrawal and others were present.

CPC takes information about welfare works for SCs, STs

With management of CIL and SECL and employees' unions

Raipur, Jan 16:



The Central Parliamentary Committee (CPC) for Welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes held meeting with the SC, ST Employees' Association and the management of Coal India Limited (CIL) and South Eastern Coal Fields Limited (SECL) at Nava Raipur here on Monday. In the meeting held under the chairmanship of LS MP Dr (Prof) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki and the members of Central Parliamentary Committee held discussions on the measures for welfare and representation of SCs, STs with Association and management of both the

Companies. Member of CPC Jagannath Sarkar, Neeraj Dangi, Dr V Shivdasan, and Kamakhya P Tasa were also present in the discussions.

The management of CIL and SECL put forth their views on the interests and rights of both the communities and anticipated to take initiatives for their constitutional and judicial rights. Parliamentary Committee also took information about condition of work in both CIL and SECL, condition of payment to those working on contractual system, compassionate appointment, reservation in promotion

and filling up of vacant posts. The members of CPA also asked the companies to kindly consider the demands put forth by the Employees' Association before the management.

In this meeting with Central Parliamentary Committee, the Chairman CIL Pramod Agrawal, CMD SECL Dr PS Mishra, Economic Advisor of Coal Ministry HK Hajong, National President CISTA RP Khande, President of Company Council OP Navrang and office bearers of both the Employees' Unions and senior officers of both the company were present.

One nabbed with rifle and 26 live cartridges

On charges of firing shots in air on Sunday night in public place



Raipur, Jan 16:

A case of open air fire from capital city has come to fore and the accused was heard firing shots in the air on Sunday night and this created sensation in the region. On getting information the police reached the site and nabbed the accused and seized the rifle and live cartridges.

As per details, the accused is Umesh Singh, R/o New Rajendra Nagar and resides in Govind Sagar premises of capital city. He owns a rifle and fired few shots in the air in the morning hours.

On this, the residents nearby lodged complaint with the police and the police went to him and nabbed him. It is learnt that the accused is working as Supervisor in Mineral Department in Surguja

and he fired shots in the air at his residence in New Rajendra Nagar last night.

The police in its preliminary inquiry came to know that the licence of his rifle has expired few months back and still he was keeping the rifle and live cartridges with him. The police seized the rifle and live cartridges and filed case under Arms Act against him.

CSP Rajesh Choudhary informed that it was on tip from an informer on Sunday night they came to know that someone is firing rifle shots in the air and it was shot in public place in Govind Sarang premises.

Immediately after the complaint, the police reached the venue and found a Jharkhand pass vehicle in the premises and the person disclosed his name as Umesh Singh. He was owing a 315 bore rifle and accepted that he fired shots in the air.

The accused was issued notice on the spot and it was learnt that the licence of his rifle has expired in 31 Dec 2022 and this he gave in writing. On this the rifle and 26 live cartridges with the accused were seized and he was taken into arrest.

Arrangements to be made for safety of spectators at cricket stadium

Raipur, Jan 16:

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure along with SSP Prashant Agrawal reached the Shaheed Veerananarayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Nava Raipur and took stock of the arrangements for the first international cricket match.

Office bearers of Chhattisgarh Cricket Association discussed preparations with Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure and SSP Agrawal at the stadium. Resources available in the stadium and expected cooperation from the district administration, cleanliness of the stadium, repair of chairs, volunteers and security etc. were discussed. Ambulance with fire fighting and medical staff will be deployed at all the entry gates during the match.



A parking fee of Rs 10 for two-wheelers and Rs 30 for four-wheelers has been fixed in the parking lots set up by Gram Panchayats Parsada, Sendh and Nawagaon. The collector urged the audience to gather in the

stadium premises for good mobile connectivity. Instructions were given to the officers to ensure arrangements for temporary towers etc. of Jio and Airtel companies.

Dr Bhure also inspected the parking lots being con-



structed around the stadium and instructed the officials to make security arrangements with adequate lighting etc. at these places. He also gave instructions to the officials to put adequate number of Safai Mitras (sanitation

Collector-SSP review on-the-spot preparations for 1st ODI

workers) on duty make available other necessary machines and equipment for cleaning arrangements in the stadium premises. The Collector gave instructions to install clear signage etc. at various places for the convenience of the people coming from different routes in the stadium and the spectators in the stadium. The Collector instructed the officers to ensure bio-toilets as well as emergency medical arrangements etc.

Illicit liquor worth Rs 10 lakh seized

Stored in 'Gautia' Dabha in Mahasamund



Mahasamund, Jan 16:

The Mahasamund police got a major breakthrough in their drive against checking sale of illicit liquor and its smuggling from one state to another. As per information, a total of 170 cartons of quarter bottles of Goa Special Whiskey was seized from three ac-

cused have stored liquor in a dabha for sale and on this they conducted raid. They nabbed three accused viz. Lalchand Manjhi, S/o Jawala Manjhi, (29), Gram Kutela, Saraipali, Mahasamund; Ajit Patel S/o Mukteshwar Patel (34), R/o Gram Kutela Mahasamund and Amit Patel, S/o Mukteshwar Patel, R/o Kutela Saraipali, Mahasamund. The police seized total of 170 cartons with 48 pieces of English Goa Whiskey and each bottle contained 180 ml of liquor and in this way the total quantity came to 1500 lts and the total amount resulting in around Rs 10.0 lakh.

As per reports the police got tip from an informer that three ac-

Placement camp on 18th

Raipur, Jan 16: District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center Raipur is organizing a placement camp on January 18 from 11 am to 2 pm at District Employment Office, Old Police Headquarters Complex, Raipur to provide employment to local educated unemployed youth. Zenix Job and Consultancy, Rapido and Arohan Financial Services Raipur will recruit candidates with qualification of Class 10th, Class 12th and Graduation (with knowledge of computer and accountancy) on more than 139 posts of telly caller, MIS Executive, Accountant, Computer Operator, Back Office, Godown Incharge, Front Office and SAP Operator, Customer Service Representative and Bike Rider. Salary ranging from Rs 10000 to Rs 20000 will be given for all these posts.

Applications received in 'Jan Choupal' be resolved at earliest: Collector



Raipur, Jan 16:

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure today heard more than 40 applications related to the public grievances and demands at 'Jan Choupal'. The Collector di-

rected the concerned officers to dispose of the applications received in Jan Choupal within the time limit. He instructed to ensure timely implementation of all the government schemes for the common people.

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^नियम और शर्तें लागू, एक्स-शोरूम कीमत छत्तीसगढ़, डाउन पेमेंट प्लैटिना 110 ABS के लिए है, डाउन पेमेंट में डीसीसी शुल्क, प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क और अन्य शुल्क शामिल नहीं हैं, फायनान्स पूर्ण रूप से फायनान्स के स्व-निर्णय पर, अतिरिक्त कीमत पर एएससी उपलब्ध है, पूरी जानकारी अपने डीलर से पता करें और आरएसए अन्य पक्षों द्वारा उनके नियम और शर्तों के तहत दिया जा रहा है, #100-110 cc वर्ग में प्लैटिना 110 ABS एकमात्र ऐसी मोटरसाइकिल है जिसमें ABS ब्रेकिंग है, नॉन-ABS मोटरसाइकिल के मुकाबले ABS मोटरसाइकिल देती है कम दूरी में ब्रेक लगाने की क्षमता, फिसलने वाले रोड पर बेहतर नियंत्रण और स्थिरता, *ABS तकनीक के लिए आवश्यक है कि मोटरसाइकिल चालक ब्रेक का सही तरीके से इस्तेमाल करे, ताकि अधिक सुरक्षित ब्रेकिंग सुनिश्चित हो, खास तौर से फड़ी परिस्थितियों में, यहां पर हाथों को एक रचनात्मक चित्रण के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया गया है कि कैसे अचानक ब्रेक लगाने पर ABS मोटरसाइकिल को नियंत्रित करने में मदद मिलती है, दर्शाया गया/दर्शाए गए उत्पाद केवल प्रस्तुतिकरण हेतु, वास्तविक रंग, विशेषताएं और विशिष्टताएं भिन्न हो सकती हैं।

Authorized Dealers for Bajaj Auto Ltd.: Raipur: Ashram Chowk (GE Road) VANDANA BAJAJ 4083927, 7000931134, •Devpuri Raipur Arun Bajaj 7415295930, •Baloda Bazar Arun Bajaj 9009399506, •Bhilai AVN BAJAJ 4252700, 7771844400 • Durg VENKATESH BAJAJ 4060122,9826161065 • Dhamtari TIRUPATI BAJAJ 233556, 9399607355 • Jagdalpur T M BAJAJ 9977293466, 222466 • Mahasamund BHAWANI BAJAJ 9424205048, 224789 •Saraipali BHAWANI BAJAJ 9424205048 • Rajnandgaon KAKKAD BAJAJ 9301111111 • Kawardha CHANDRAYAN BAJAJ 9993988333. **Authorised Service Centre:** Abhanpur 9425510725, Ahiwara 9300771932, Ambagarh Chowki 8085558568, Arang 9425519445,8224026403, Bagbahara 9926161553, Balod 9300007755, Basna 9753408127, Baya 7748070011, Bemetra 9303035355, Berla 9424132982, Bhanupratappur 9977911298, Bhatapara, 7611122772, Chandrakhuri 9826764123 Charama 7987079755, 9425593779, Charoda 9907448800, Chhuriya 9111400505, Dallirajhira 9229940000, , Dantewada 9425594844, Dongergaon 8770405245, , Fingeshwar 7000189472, Gariyaband 7777888487, Gidhori 9425202238, Gunderdehi 7354060136, Jhalap 9770170345, Kanker 7771852418, Kasdol 9826142260, Khairagarh 6263744912, Koikukdud 7987326132, Komakhan 8319131967, Kondagaon 9131609699, Kurud 7225807375, Mainpur 7000931134, Nagri 9109099900, Nawagarh: - 9981235777, Nayapara 9826433867, Pakhanjur 9425593572, Pandatarai 7470991444, Patan 9893604812, Pharasgaon 9826347547, Pirda 9977377533, Pithoda 9713118410, Rajim- 8602057777, Ranitarai 9617444325, Risali 9098847683, Sankra 8120008091, Sargaon 700079773, Singhanpur 9713848382, Simga 8827777456, Tilda 9329068989, Tellbandha 7000931134, Tendukona 9425512175, Utai 7566001523.

Vehicle parking zone to be created beneath flyovers on NH

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas inspected Supela Square on Monday to take stock of the work being done by the National Highway and Public Works Department.

Officers of the National Highway, Bhilai Municipal Corporation and the office bearers of the Market Association accompanied him during the visit. He took information about the works of the National Highway from the officials. The Commissioner said that the works being done on the National Highway should be done expeditiously. He instructed the officials to increase the resources and conduct the tasks that can be done parallel.

The Commissioner said



that the parking space is very important as it will give a lot of relief from the traffic pressure. He also instructed for patch repair work, asphaltting, installation of lights on the National Highway and removal of debris to make the road dust free.

Instructions were given

to the officers to do landscaping work also. He added that the construction of the drain should be done in a safe manner. National Highway officials stated that the work for parking will be done soon and the preparations will be completed soon at some places.

The Commissioner said

that considering all aspects, construction and other development works should be done with quality and as soon as possible. He asked the NH officers that it is very necessary to make the roads dust free. Hence they must conduct patch repair work and construction of parking space

on priority basis.

Instructing the BMC officials, the Commissioner said that the campaign against illegal hoardings and posters should continue. According to the list received from the Market Association, he also gave instructions to run a special campaign with businessmen in the market areas.

A d d i t i o n a l Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi, Superintending Engineer Deepak Joshi, Zone Commissioner Rajendra Nayak, Executive Engineer Sanjay Sharma, Assistant Engineers Alok Pasine and Vinita Verma, Deputy Engineer Arpit Banjare and Market Association office bearers and Deputy Engineer National Highway Abhijeet Soni were present during the inspection.

Two held for stealing car and other items from a house



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Police have arrested two ruffians on charges of stealing a car and other household items from a house in Titurdeeh. CSP Banker Vaibhav Ramanlal (IPS) informed that they had received a complaint from one Dinesh Bhakre of Titurdeeh regarding theft of a Maruti S-Presso Car

and other household items from his house.

Police conducted investigations and soon two suspects were taken into custody. During interrogation, they confessed to have committed the crime. The accused were taking the car to Orissa to sell it but the vehicle broke down on the way. The accused had left the broken vehicle at Bodam area of Orissa.

Police have recovered the stolen vehicle and the stolen household items. The accused identified as Akash Yadav (22) son of Ravikant Yadav a resident of Scindia Nagar, Durg and Ajay Kumar Gada (20) son of Prakash Kumar Gada a resident of New Adarsh Nagar have been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 457, 380, 34 of IPC.

MLA Devendra Yadav's mother walks with Rahul Gandhi

Participates in Bharat Jodo Yatra in Adampur, Punjab

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Former National President of Congress Rahul Gandhi is travelling across the country to unite the entire nation. Bharat Jodo Yatra is presently passing through Punjab. Pushpa Yadav, mother of Bhilai Nagar Congress MLA Devendra Yadav has also reached Punjab to participate in the yatra.

On Monday, 73-year-old Pushpa Yadav walked with Rahul Gandhi. To participate in the yatra, she specially reached Adampur in Punjab from Bhilai. Even at this age, she walked a long distance with Rahul Gandhi.

It needs to be mentioned here that Bhilai MLA Devendra Yadav played a vital role in Rahul



Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. More than 500 youths from Devendra Yadav's team from Bhilai and other cities of Chhattisgarh have participated in the Yatra.

They are handling different responsibilities in the Yatra. Participation of Bhilai MLA's mother Pushpa Yadav in the yatra

Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

A large number of Congress leaders and workers of Chhattisgarh are also participating in this yatra. Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav was also made in-charge of the Bharat Jodo Yatra programs in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. After this, now other responsibilities of the trip were also handed over to him.

Youth Congress and NSUI leaders of Bhilai are participating in large numbers in Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. To join the yatra, the youth leaders did the practice of walking in the month of December. They walk for 5 to 12 kms daily, so that they can walk with Rahul Gandhi in Bharat Jodo Yatra.

remained the topic of discussion in Chhattisgarh on Monday. Her photo is also going viral on social media.

It could be recollected here that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Padayatra, which started from Kerala, is now in Punjab after crossing different cities of Karnataka, Maharashtra,

Sports festival organised at Rawatpura Sarkar International School Kumhari

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Like every year, the Annual Sports Festival was organised at Shri Rawatpura Sarkar International School Kumhari. The Annual Sports Festival was organized on January 12-13, 2023.

Vice President Dr JK Upadhyay was present as chief guest. The sports festival was inaugurated with the lighting the lamp by the chief guest. Thereafter, Dr JK Upadhyay extended best wishes to the children for the upcoming sports competitions.

The theme of the sports festival this year was based on athletic sports which included sports like 100m, 200m, 400m race, shotput, javelin throw, long jump, relay-race, tug of war, slow cycling race etc. Children of all the houses of the school took an active part and en-



joyed the games to the fullest and the guests present on the march past were saluted by all the houses children and also the sports meet was flagged off by lighting the torch. Thereafter, field dance, aerobics dance, legium and yoga asanas were performed by the students of

the school and a ceremony was held in front of the guests and parents.

Tug of war, needle-thread games were also organized for the parents who came for the competition. In the end, the team of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam House won the maximum number of medals in all the competi-

tions and won the running trophy by becoming the champion in the sports festival.

Vice President Dr JK Upadhyay and Principal AlokaSahuin their said that sports leads to all-round development of children and also positivity remains in children.

Villagers accuse Sarpanch of cutting green trees at village Bhatgaon

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Villagers of Bhatgaon have accused their sarpanch of cutting green trees and using the timber for fencing at his farm. The villagers stated that their village is near an industrial area.

They added that green trees help in reducing the pollution level. The villagers of Bhatgaon made this complaint to the Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena on Monday. The Collector asked the officials to investigate the matter and take necessary action.

An application related to Surya Treasure Mall was also submitted. The appli-

cant raised an objection to the parking fee being charged by Treasure Mall. In Jandarshan, most of the cases were related to revenue matters while some cases were of mutual dispute. NH officials also put a topic related to road safety in Jandarshan. All applications were disposed of on the spot.

A family from Supela complained that they are very upset with the neighbour. Their street is narrow and the neighbour parks his goods vehicle on the street. Due to this goods vehicle, the applicant is unable to take out his small car. Due to this his goods vehicle, the vehicles of sanitation work-



ers are also unable to move in the street. The drain was also damaged by this vehicle.

When the locals raise objections, the neighbour threatens them. The family stated that they are suffering a lot because of such behaviour of the neighbour. The Collector

asked the station-in-charge Supela to take necessary action in this regard. Another family also shared their pain in Jandarshan. The family stated that some anti-social elements have encroached upon their plot and are threatening them.

Mohammad Naushad, a

resident of Takiapara, said that he had taken a loan of Rs 30,000 from the bank. He is a beneficiary of the PM Swanidhi Scheme. He repaid the loan but the bank officials did not enter it in the accounts. Because of this, he is not getting the loan of Rs 50,000. The Collector instructed the Lead Bank Officer to take necessary action in this regard.

Members of Shivnath River Fishermen Divers Committee met the Collector and urged him to provide the benefits of government schemes. The Collector gave instructions to the officer of the fisheries department to provide benefits under the

MatsyaSampada Yojana.

A villager of village Kherdha said that his work of Pramanikaran (Verification of ownerships transfer) is pending since many days. The Collector instructed the revenue officers to do this work without delay. The complaint of illegal plotting in Baba Deep Singh Nagar Kohka also reached the Jandarshan.

Along with this, an applicant stated that he has a plot in Junwani Model Town, the plot has been surrounded from all sides in such a way that there is no place to reach the plot. The Collector directed the Tehsildar for necessary action in this regard.

Science Exhibition at Jyoti Vidyalaya

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Science and Art Exhibition was organised at Jyoti Vidyalaya Charoda.

The performance objective of the students from class 3rd to 12th was "Imagine-Invent and Inspire". With hard work the students made more than 100 models. The chief guests were Dr Sister Elsheena Mary, besides Manager of School Dr Suja Mary, CBSE Principal Sister Sheril Mary, Vice Principal Sister Reshmi Mary, CG Principal Sister Akhila Mary, Vice Principal Parmita Mishra. The judge was Dr Prasad. CG Principal Akhila Mary said that she's proud of the children and teachers because of the fact that the children spared their games period and



tried hard to make models for this exhibition. Chief Guest Dr Sister Elsheena Mary explained that it was the day of inauguration of Science Club and this was the first exhibition. She also wished the children a bright future. The cooperation of all the teachers was commendable.

Vivek, Nitin, Thameswar to participate in National Powerlifting Competition



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Vivek Shah, Nitin Sahu and Thameswar Dhivar (Billa) of Jai Hanuman VyamshalaKumhari have secured berth to participate in the National Powerlifting and bench Press Competition starting in Aurangabad (Maharashtra) from January 17. All are students of Jai Hanuman Vyamshala. Information on this account was given by Pradeep Jha, Vice President of Chhattisgarh Powerlifting Association and former Mr Chhattisgarh. Jha further revealed that these three players had ensured their place in the national power lifting competition by winning medals in the state level power lifting competition held at Kumhari a few

months back. KumhariMunicipal Council Vice President K Ravi Kumar has provided financial assistance to all the selected players to express his happiness and solidarity. Here it is worth mentioning that earlier K Ravi Kumar had announced that he would bear the expenses of all the local players on selection at national and international level. Appreciating the act, coach Pradeep Jha thanked K Ravi Kumar and said that if all the public representatives and well off people of the society continue to support the players of the state in the same way, then the players of the state will make the state and the country proud not only at the national level but also at the international level.

Safety Engineering Department organises Mega drawing & painting competition

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: The Safety Engineering Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has successfully carried out its various efforts to enhance safety. Along with the work areas of the plant, several efforts have been made to create awareness among the general public, youth and children in the Township areas of Bhilai. Under these efforts, on January 15, 2023, BSP's Safety Engineering Department organised a "drawing and painting competition" based on the various topic of safety and fire fighting for school children at SunitiUdyan, Sector-8.

The competition was organised in 6 categories on different topics related to safety, in which different topics were allotted for different categories, i.e. any area of safety for class nursery, general



safety for children from class 1 to 3, home/fire safety for children from class 4 to 5, road/rail safety for class 6 to 8, Industrial/Environmental Safety class 9 to 12 and General Safety for Divyangjan. More than 1200 students from all categories participated in this "Drawing and Painting Competition" organised under the guidance of GP Singh, Acting Chief General Manager (Safety & Fire Services). On this

occasion, Superintendent of Police of Durg District Dr Abhishek Pallava, Executive Director (Personnel & Administration) of SAIL-BSP MM Gadre, CMO Incharge (M&HS) Dr M Ravindranath, and senior officers of BSP were specially present. This competition was organized by the Safety Engineering Department at SunitiUdyan, Sector-8 on January 15, 2023 from 10:00 hrs to 12:00 hrs. The

Drawing and Painting Competition on Safety received a good response. It may be noted that SAIL-Bhilai is celebrating the month of January as Safety Month. In this competition, along with the children, their parents were also present. Six groups of participants were given various topics on safety like industrial, environmental safety, home & fire safety, road & rail safety and general safety on the spot.

Under the leadership of GP Singh, Acting Chief General Manager (Security & Fire Services), all the officers, employees and safety warriors of the Safety Engineering Department made their significant contribution to make this program a success. An exhibition of selected paintings of this competition will be displayed in BSP's Nehru Art Gallery for general public.

Caster No 6 in SMS 2 crosses half century, sets new record of 52 Heats



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: High speed Caster 6 in SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Steel Melting Shop 2 smashed all its records made recently and set a new high with 52 heats in longest ever sequence in single tundish on January 15, 2023. The total caster running time in single sequence was 34 hours.

This new high was against previous best of 47 heats with caster running time of 32 hours recorded on January 12, 2023. It is worth mentioning that such record number of heats have been achieved as against tundish guaranteed life of 17 heats. The record performances have been made possible by Caster 6 Team through high levels of operational efficiency. The entire Caster 6 Team led by Alok Mathur, GM (Operation) and well supported by Yogesh Shastri GM (Mechanical), Saurav Jain, GM (Electrical), Madhu Pillai, GM (Instrumentation) was congratulated by ED (Works) Anjani Kumar, CGM, SMS 2, SK Ghoshal and other senior officers of the Plant for setting a new benchmark.

Caster No 6 of SMS 2 had earlier recorded 45 heats on January 06, 2023, 44 heats on January 04, 2023, 42 heats on January 01, 2023, 41 heat on December 30, 2022, 40 heats on December 16, 2022, 36 heats on December 10, 2022 and 35 heats achieved on December 06, 2022.

Illegal lodges operating in the city

Legal literacy, awareness camp held

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 16: Dozens of lodges have been constructed and operated against the rules for the convenience of devotees who reach the religious city of Dongargarh, but according to information many are being operated illegally also.

Dozens of houses from the railway station to the temple are being used by the landlord as lodges and cases related to illegal business including rape of minors reach the court through the police.

While taking a decision in one such case, Additional Sessions Judge Hon'ble Anish Dubey directed the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police to take necessary action against the illegally operated lodges. In the judg-



ment given by Additional Sessions Judge Anish Dubey against Abhishek Agarwal, accused of raping a minor girl, the Judge gave the verdict.

Additional Sessions Judge in his decision has further stated that the CC TV cameras required for the operation of the lodge operated in Dongargarh, their recording and entry of those coming and stay-

ing in the lodge's register were not done and therefore many trials under the POCSO Act, almost half of the cases took place in these lodges.

While according to the rules made by the central and state governments, the license of such lodges should be canceled immediately and sealed. Meanwhile in the decision given by the Additional

Sessions Judge, it has been further said that, against all the persons running all the lodges and guest rooms of Dongargarh tehsil, action is to be taken, and a copy of this decision should be sent along with the memorandum to the District Magistrate, Rajnandgaon and Superintendent of Police, Rajnandgaon for necessary action.

In Gram Panchayat Named

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Jan 15: As per instructions from Chhattisgarh State Legal Service Authority (CSLSA) Bilaspur, a district literacy and legal awareness programme was organised for aspirational districts under 'Disha Scheme' in Gram Panchayat Named on Sunday.

The chief guest of the programme was Chief Judicial Magistrate Bijapur Jagdish Ram and he gave information about legal awareness. Jagdish Ram said that to pass on the benefits of the state government's schemes to general public and to create legal awareness among them is the main objective of this programme, so that no one



from any section of the society is deprived of any schemes, or legal assistance or justice.

During this SDM Bijapur Pawan Kumar Premi gave information in detailed about the RBC-6-4 caste certificate and other services under the Revenue Department. CEO District Panchayat Fagesh Sinha under MGN-REGA created awareness about employment genera-

tion and various employment-oriented schemes of the state government and urged them to avail benefit of the schemes.

Lead Bank Officer in the programme gave information about various employment-oriented loans and banking services and facilities. In this programme, information about departmental schemes related to Women & Child Development Department;

Health dept; Agriculture, Traffic dept; Mukhyamantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana; and others was provided through exhibition and stalls. Here information related to schemes was passed on to the people through pamphlets, brochures and others. The chief guest later distributed materials to eligible beneficiaries under various government schemes.

BJPMC meet in Raipur on Jan 18

Central Chronicle News

Dalli-Rajhara, Jan 16: The meeting of BJP Minorities Cell (BJPMC) will be held in capital city on Jan 18. As per instructions from BJP state head, the meeting of newly elected state office bearers of BJPMC and divisional in-charge and co-incharges will be held in Raipur on Jan 18 at 11:00 am at party's Kushabhau Thakre premises.

In this meeting, BJP state chief Arun Sao, Morcha in-charge Dr Salim Raj, State in-charge Mohammed Saddam, Morcha co-incharge Arif Khan, and



Swadheen Jain

other guests and BJP Minorities Cell State Chief Shakeel Ahmed will chair it, informs BJPMC's media in-charge Swadheen Jain in a press release.

30th Int'nl Boudha Sammelan to be held on Feb 6 In Prayagiri; delegation meets ex-CM and MLA

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 16: The organisation of 30th International Boudha Sammelan under the chairmanship of founder of 'Prayagiri', world famous 'Dhaamdoot Puja Bhadant Sangratna Manke (President Pattra Metta Sangh, Bharat)', will be held on Feb 6, 2023 at 'Prayagiri Parvat'.

It is under the guidance of Puja Bhadant Sangh Ratna Manke, the 'Bhadanta Dhammatap' paid courtesy call to ex-CM Dr Raman Singh (MLA Rajnandgaon), MLA Dongargarh



Bhuneshwar Baghel and President CG State SC Commission and DCCB Rajnandgaon district

President Navaz Khan and invited them as chief guest for the Feb 6 International Boudha

Sammelan.

The guests wholeheartedly accepted the invitation and wished all the best for this sammelan. During this meeting, senior social worker Kanhaiyalal Khobragade, Rajnandgaon, Prayagiri branch Dongargarh 'Pattra Metta Sangh Youth' President Upasika Jyoti Meshram, V-P Piyush Ganvir, Sachiv-Pradeep Gajbhiye, Treasurer- Rajat Gajbhiye, social worker Kiran Meshram, Pragesh Sahare, Dongargarh and other members of Boudha Samaj were present.

'Bung' Samaj pay rich tributes to Swami Vivekanand

Central Chronicle News



Dalli-Rajhara, Jan 16: On occasion of 160th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand, the members of 'Bung' Samaj offered rich tributes and expressed his thoughts and ideology. On this occasion Head of 'Bung'

Samaj- Gagan Pandaya, Gautam Bera, Sapan Charabory, Madan Mayati, CS Mandal, HC Sarkar; Bapi Mayti, Pintu Charabory, Bapi Aich, from Mahila Mandal- Purobi Verma, Reena Pandaya, Laxmi Sinha, Mitthu Didi and others were present.

Sports also provide social development: Jalan

Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Jan 16: Pendra Nagar Panchayat President Rakesh Jalan speaking as the chief guest of cricket

competition said that sports not only helps in physical development, but also in social development and therefore the youth should keep interest in sports as well. Jalan further said that on losing any game or sports, the youth should not feel disappointed, rather they should make efforts with double the energy to attain victory next time and those who always makes efforts never face disappointment.

He said that the players of the state and country are bringing laurels in all forms of the sports and to promote the sports, Chhattisgarh government has also taken a very important decision and one such recent example is the Chhattisgarh Olympics. On this occasion senior coroporator Iqbal Singh, senior Congmen Pawan Sultanania, Janpad Panchayat V-P Jeewan Singh Bacharwar, Sarpanch and other villagers and all cricketers, players were present.

Declaration of Rs 15000 made for HS School

Central Chronicle News



By Minister's rep in Gram Khallari
On occasion of School's silver jubilee celebrations

Central Chronicle News

Dalli-Rajhara, Jan 16: On occasion of silver jubilee celebration of Government HS School, Gram Khallari, the Minister's rep Piyush

Soni was the chief guest. The school's management welcomed the Minister's rep with a flower bouquet and who in his address later made a declaration of donating Rs 15000 for construction of cultural platform for holding cultural programmes and he also felicitated the talented students.

The School's management expressed gratitude towards Minister's repre-

sentative for the declaration made. On this occasion, Janpad Panchayat V-P Puneet Sen, Janpad member Tikam Netam, corporator Paltan Bhuarya, Khairvahi, and Sarpanch Budhan Singh Uikey, media in-charge Ravikant Deshmukh, School's Principal Johnson Madam, Sarpanch of Gram and students of School and villagers were present in large number.

'Kalash Yatra' marks beginning of Bhagwat Katha

Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahirwara, Jan 15: Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran Gyan Yagna week will be organised in Nagar Palika Parishad Ahirwara ward No. 3 at Mangal Bhavan from Jan 15-21.

On the first day, a massive 'Kalash Yatra' was taken out from the resident of Natwar Lal Tamrakar-President Nagar Palika Parishad Ahirwara in the presence of 'Bhagwan Laddu Gopalji' and 'Ramdhuni' music and it reached 'Sheetala Mandir'.

Here prayers were offered and all the women filling water in the 'Kalash' passed through different localities and reached the venue of Srimad Bhagwat katha. Nyas Brahmachari is Jyotirmayana and Sapad Laksheshwar Dhaam Saldha.



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Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with ESAF Small Finance Bank and not redeemed by borrowers, despite repeated reminders and notices, of our branches, are listed below. This will be auctioned as per the details given below:

DATE OF AUCTION : 20-01-2023
TIME : 10 AM TO 4 PM

AUCTION VENUE : THROUGH E-AUCTION
AUCTION ADDRESS : <https://gold.matnet.org/>

To register as bidder for the e-Auction with terms and conditions, and full details of e-Auction please visit the above site

BRANCHES & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

BHILAI: 63210001582661, KORBA: 63210001608954, 1613094, RAIGARH: 63210001600529

Customers who are interested to release the ornaments by paying the total due amount may do so, at the respective branches, on or two days before the date of the auction.

Bidders who wish to participate in the auction shall produce their KYC documents. GST No. is mandatory for registered firms/companies. Bidders shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000 as EMD before participating in the auction.

Thrisur Date: 17-01-2023
Sd/-
Authorized Signatory

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rule, 1993) in the matter of

OA NO 593/2022 PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK VERSUS LAXMINARAYAN SAINI & ORS.

DATE: 07.01.2023 APPLICANT RESPONDENT

DEFENDANT

1. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SAINI S/O SHRI NANNU RAM R/O VILLAGE SIDOLA POST-TIGARR FARIDABAD-121101

ALSO AT: DELHI GATE DEEG DEEG BHARATPUR RAJASTHAN-321203

ALSO AT: ONE QUTAB 1501 KALKA DASS MARG MEHRAULI NEW DELHI-30

2. SH. SHASHWA SAHU S/O SHRI GOVINDA SAHU R/O ROOM C-15, U/15/12-13, U-BLOCK DLF PHASE-3 GURGAON-122002

ALSO AT: C/O. B/19 KANCHAAN GANGA ESTATE PHASE-2 NEAR AYURVEDIC COLLAGE RAIPUR CHHATTISGARH-492010

3. M/S IDEA BUILDERS PVT. LTD. C-294 1st FLOOR NEAR VIVEK VIHAR, NEW DELHI-95

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 37,05,082.98/- (RUPEE THIRTY SEVEN LAKH FIVE THOUSAND EIGHTY TWO AND NINETY EIGHT PAISE ONLY) to serve you in and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to get you on the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 06.03.2023 AT 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through video Conferencing and for that purpose-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/software; (ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Hon'ble Presiding Officer / Registrar shall be displayed in the daily case list itself at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in (iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocate/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748478. Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this 07th day of Jan., 2023. BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL, SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI.

POONAWALLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

(FORMERLY, MAGMA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED) Registered Office: 602, 6th Floor, Zero One IT Park, Sr. No. 79/1, Ghorpadi, Mundhwa Road, Pune - 411036

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited (Formerly known as Magma Housing Finance Limited) of the above Corporate/ Registrar office under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred as the "said Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice below dated calling upon the below Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002 on this 12th day of January of the year 2023.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited (Formerly known as Magma Housing Finance Limited) the amount and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details of Property taken in possession are herein below.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrowers	Description of Property	Possession Taken Date	Date of statutory Demand Notice	Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1.	MAYA CHANGANI, NARAYAN DAS CHANGANI,	All That Piece And Parcel Of Mortgaged Property Of Part Of Kh. No. 83/8 Flat Family Unit Type E-005, In Ground Floor, Area 540 Sq. Ft., Situated At Golchha Apartment, Near Meera Datar, Telibandha, Veer Narayan Singh Ward, R.I.C Raipur-1, Raipur, Tahsil & Distt. Raipur (C.G.), And Boundaries Of The Flat:- As Per Sale Deed: North: Block Type C-003, South: Block Unit D- 004, East: Open, West: Staircase Block Common Lobby	12/01/2023	22-Sep-22	Loan No. HL/0022/H/13/100129 Rs. 2042138/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Forty Two Thousand One Hundred ThirtySeven Paise SixtyThree Only) payable as on 22/09/2022 along with interest @ 14.30% p.a. till the realization.

Place: Raipur Date: 17.01.2023

Sd/- Authorised Officer Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited (Formerly known as Magma Housing Finance Limited)

APPENDIX IV (See rule 8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

YES BANK Regd. & Corp. Office: Yes Bank House, Off Western Express Highway, Santacruz East, Mumbai-400055. CIN: L65190MH2003PLC143249, E-mail: communications@yesbank.in, Website: www.yesbank.in

Publication of Notice u/s 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act.

Notice is hereby given that the under mentioned Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) (whichever applicable) who have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loan facility obtained by them from the Bank and whose loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on their last known addresses, but they have been returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower (s)/ security provider/s	Details of Properties/Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice	Date of NPA	Amount outstanding
1. Mr. Saurabh Sarin S/o. Tilak Raj Singh	Description of the mortgage property: All that piece and parcel of land comprising an area about of 1200 Sq.ft., situated at Mouza- Danganyia, Ph.No. 104/57, account no. 182, part Khasra No. 179/36, under Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Ward No. 69, R.N.M-Raipur-1, P.S. & Dist- Raipur, CG. North: House of Tiwaril/ South: Land of Pradeep Chhatrai East: Road // West: Land of Pradeep Chhatrai. The area of 1200 Sq.ft. which means there is 111.48 Sq.Meters of land, it does not have wall, tree etc, which is located 1/2 meter inside from the main road.	20th Dec., 2022	12th Nov., 2022	Rs. 26,17,250.78/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty and Seventy Eight Paise only) under the Loan A/c No. AFH04700791719, due as on 20.12.2022

The above Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of said 60 days under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act.

Furthermore, this is to bring to your attention that under Section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act, in case our dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by us are tendered at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by us, and no further step shall be taken by us for transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 17.01.2023 Place: Raipur

Sd/ Authorised Officer For YES BANK Limited

CM Baghel visited Cosmo Expo 2023

More than 300 stalls of various trades have been set up.

Raipur, Jan 16:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the Cosmo Expo 2023 programme at Shri Ram Business Park on Sunday. The Chief Minister toured the stalls set up at this fair. He complimented the members of the Rotary Club of Raipur on this wonderful occasion. He stated that the performance of practically all industrial trades may be seen at this major event. 'I am pleased that the Chhattisgarh government is also participating in this event', he added.

From automobiles to real estate and education, the Expo provides easy access to information about developments taking place



in the country and around the world. This fair has about 300 stalls representing diverse trades. In addition, the public relations department, along with several government departments, enhanced the display of the Chhattisgarh development

model at the expo. On this occasion, Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Kuldeep Singh Juneja, and Mayor of Raipur Municipal Corporation Aijaz Dhebar were also present.

Bhagat to conclude Tatapani Mohotsava today

Balrampur, Jan 16:

The three-day festival in Tatapani, Balrampur's historical site will conclude today. Food and Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat will be the chief guest of the programme, which will be presided over by Vice President of Surguja Area Tribal Development Authority Brihaspat Singh. Parliamentary Secretary Chintamani Maharaj will be present as special guest. Famous Bhojpuri artists Kajal Raghavani and Mohan Rathore will present cultural performances at the closing ceremony. Prior to this, school-children will showcase their talent on stage through dancing, as well as the art and culture of Chhattisgarh.

Jhumka Jal Mahotsav 2023 to be organized in Korea from today

Korea, Jan 16

In a bid to promote the culture, tourism, and beauty of Korea district, a two-day long Jhumka Jal Mahotsav is being organized by the district administration from January 17. People will be made educated about the achievements of the district through departmental exhibitions. The programme will be inaugurated on January 17 by Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat. Home and District in-charge Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu will be the chief guest at the closing ceremony.

Preparations are in the final stage for the successful organization of the festival. District Collector Shri Vinay Kumar Langeh inspected the programme venue today and took stock of all the arrangements

there besides giving directions to the officials for discharging their

guests will observe the kite festival and painting exhibition at Jhumka Island. Presentation of melodious songs by



allocated duties efficiently. Event Schedule and performances: On day one, on the inauguration of the festival on January 17, at 1:00 pm, the stalls set up by various departments will be observed after the inaugural programme. Following this, the chief and special

Chhattisgarhi artist Sushri Aaru Sahu at 2:50 pm and cultural presentations will be given by local artists at 3:40 pm. The performance of Chhattisgarhi artist Sunil Manikpuri is sched-

uled to be held at 5:00 pm and Odissi dancer Smt. Purnashree Raut at 6:00 pm. There will be attractive performances by famous Chhattisgarhi artist Anuj Sharma at 7:00 pm and Bollywood artist Vinod Rathore at 8:00 pm.

On the second day of Jhumka Jal Mahotsav, on January 18, at 1:00 pm, after the welcoming of the chief and special guests, a performance of local artists will be held at 2:00 pm, a performance by Chhattisgarhi artist Shri Sanjay Surila at 4:00 pm. Performances will be given by Sufi artist Shri Nasir Ninder at 5:30 pm and by other artists at 6:45 pm. At 6:55 pm, the festival will conclude with performances by Chhattisgarhi artist Shri Sunil Soni and Bollywood artist Shri Sukhbir Singh.

BALCO launches eco-friendly 2023 calendar, sets an example in sustainable practices

Balconagar, (Korba) Jan 16: Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer, has launched an eco-friendly calendar for the year 2023, entirely made of recycled paper and decomposable fabric with zero plastic. The recycled paper has seeds embedded in it which, when planted in soil and watered, will grow into flowering plants like marigold and many wildflowers.

Themed on 'transforming for a sustainable future', the calendar was designed with the aim to inspire action by viewers when it comes to individual responsibility towards environmental sustainability. To source designs for the calendar, BALCO organized a contest where employees, business partners and family members were invited to submit



paintings and sketches on the theme. Out of these, 12 artworks were selected to be featured on every page of the calendar with a short description of the messages they carry. The calendar is a visual manifestation of how the company strives to inculcate sustainability-oriented actions, behavior and operations in

every walk of life. Unveiling the calendar for public, Abhijit Pati, CEO and Director, BALCO, said, "BALCO aims to be at the forefront of industry-leading sustainable business practices, as a steward for the industry. Our commitment to safeguarding the future of coming generations is embedded in our vision, corporate

objectives, production processes and the way we conduct our business. This journey is seeing us transition to clean technologies, increase quantum of renewables in our energy mix, reduce our carbon footprint, and embed the principles of sustainability in the way we conduct our business. As we work on the bigger agendas,

we are equally conscious of the snowballing effect of unsustainable everyday actions. Our eco-friendly calendar stands testimony to this sensitivity which is so deeply ingrained in our organizational culture." In line with Vedanta's aim to become an Environment, Social & Governance (ESG) leader in the natural resources sector and to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2050 or sooner, BALCO is working on 9 themes for ESG excellence, namely, Biodiversity, Carbon & Energy Efficiency, Environment Management, Communities & Social Performance, People, Health & Safety, Supply Chain, Renewable Energy and Water Management. Together, these form the pillars that will drive 'green' growth for the company in the days to come.

A talk on 'Exploring well-being in the Indian context'

Raipur, Jan 16:

The Department of Liberal Arts at IIT Bhilai hosted Prof Kamlesh Singh from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Delhi for a lecture titled "Exploring well-being in the Indian context". The lecture was organized on Friday under the aegis of Intersections, the lecture series of the Department.

Analyzing well-being in the contemporary context, Prof Singh started with a wide range of definitions of happiness and well-being across the globe. She focused on the indigenous aspects of well-being in India, mainly referring to the Low Arousal Positive Affect and the Sat-Chit-Anand model.



The discussion revolved around choosing the right combination of tools for giving interventions to introduce well-being and happiness as per the context and various aspects of the population.

These include intervention studies addressing character strengths, stress management, and yoga-based courses in enhancing relevant well-being in-

dicators among college students. She also spoke about a digital intervention program on Mental Health Literacy among rural residents. The lecture provided students and faculty of the institute many pertinent insights on inculcating happy habits and orienting themselves to positivity in their everyday lived experience.

CM inaugurates first 'Shaheed Park' of the state in Balrampur



Raipur, Jan 16: To commemorate the sacrifices and contributions of the martyrs forever, a "Shaheed Park" has been established in Balrampur Ramanujan district. This is the first ever Shaheed Park of Chhattisgarh. Chief Ministers Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the "Shaheed Park" on the

occasion of Makar Sankranti here on Sunday. In this park located at Shahid chowk of Balrampur, statues of Martyrs viz. constable Anil Khalko, Sub -Inspector Nabaur Kujur, head constable Manazarul Haq, Sub-Inspector Masih Bhusan Lakra, head constable Ram Sai Ram have been installed. Below the statues,

Statues of Martyrs from Balrampur Ramanujan district have been installed in this park

the bio-data of these Martyrs has been engraved, so that people may learn about their invaluable contribution and sacrifices. Large number of people are visiting Shaheed Park to pay respect to these brave souls of the nation. With this initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, honouring and remembrance of Martyrs will not remain confined to one day, rather they would be cherished and remembered every day. People will get inspired by the stories of bravery sacrifices of these martyrs.

GST's divisional office should be opened in Jagdalpur: Malviya

For convenience of tax-payers from remote 7 districts of Bastar region

Jagdalpur, Jan 16:

State Co-convenor of BJP Economic Cell, Advocate Vipin Malviya has written a letter to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Commercial Tax and GST Minister TS Singh Deo, demanding that at present from the remote areas are Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, Bastar, Kondagaon Narayanpur and Kanker, the Tax payers of the area have to go to Raipur for appeal and revision of their GST and VAT tax. They have to face lots of difficulties as the distance is long. Keeping in view the problems of the traders of Bastar, he

has requested the Chhattisgarh government to open the divisional headquarters of GST (state tax) in Jagdalpur as well.

He told that Jagdalpur, the divisional headquarters of Bastar division, is administratively the headquarters of Bastar division. In which 7 districts Bastar, Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, Kondagaon, Narayanpur and Kanker are included respectively. Currently Commercial Tax/GST is in Jagdalpur. There are two circle offices under this viz. Office of Commercial Tax Office Jagdalpur Circle-1 and Commercial Tax Office



Jagdalpur Circle-2 and both are located in Jagdalpur respectively. In both these offices, businessmen of Bastar district, Sukma district, Dantewada district, Bijapur district, Kondagaon district and

Narayanpur district are dealt with. There are more than 25,000 registered taxpayers in these two offices.

Vipin Malviya said that at present tax payers of remote areas Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, Bastar, Kondagaon Narayanpur and Kanker areas have to go to the divisional headquarters Raipur for Appeal and revision of their GST and VAT tax. Which is about 431 km distance from Bijapur to Raipur. The distance from Sukma to Raipur is approximately 410 kms. The distance from Jagdalpur to Raipur is about 300 kms. The distance of other districts is also about 200 km till

Raipur. Due to which there is loss of time and money of the taxpayer.

Geographically, the area of Bastar division is bigger than the state of Kerala, therefore, keeping in view the convenience of the traders of Bastar division, it would be fair to open the divisional office of GST (State Tax) of Bastar division by making Jagdalpur the headquarters.

With the inclusion of Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, Bastar, Kondagaon, Narayanpur and Kanker districts of Bastar division, the businessmen of these places will get a lot of convenience, he added.

Illuminating beams from CU will spread like the Uttarayan Sun: Prof. Dave

Foundation Day celebrated with enthusiasm in CU

Bilaspur, Jan 16:

The 15th Foundation Day and 14th anniversary celebrations were organized on January 15, 2023 in Guru Ghasidas University (Central University). The Chief Guest of the ceremony organized at Rajat Jayanti Sabhagar of the University at 11 am was Prof. Neelambari Dave, Former Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat. The program was presided over by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal through virtual medium. Among the guests on the stage were the Vice-Chancellor in-charge of the university, Prof. Amit Saxena, the Registrar, Prof. Manish Srivastava and Dean Student Welfare, Prof. M.N. Tripathi.

The Chief Guest of the 15th Foundation Day program, Prof. Neelambari Dave, extended her good wishes to all those present on the foundation day and Makar Sankranti. She remarked that the word 'university' conveys the sense of 'universal' and 'a place of learning', which means that we represent the whole of the academic world and this responsibility means that we become better human beings too while excelling intellectually. She added that just as there is continuous increase in sunlight in Uttarayan, similarly the university is showing progressive growth. Professor Dave also pointed out that we must make the academic environment of the university more lively by taking advantage of the experience of senior people.



While presiding over the ceremony, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, while congratulating all on Makar Sankranti and Foundation Day, said that in accordance with the directives and the spirit of the National Education Policy 2020, Swavalambi Chhattisgarh scheme has been started in the university, through which we are continuously striving to make students self-reliant.

All the teachers are working together to provide value based, experiential, and employable education to the students. In this context, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakrawal mentioned that the work of mushroom production has been started by the Department of Rural Technology and Social Work Department, and it will be carried out on a large scale in the coming times and the students will be financially benefited

from it. He said that to achieve the targets a company has been set up under Section 8 to carry out various industrial and innovation activities. For monitoring and marketing of production of mushroom and other products, cooperation of online marketing websites will also be taken. He pointed out that such enterprises of the university are already resulting in consultancy offers. Prof. Chakrawal said, "We should do what we relish

but with the proviso that it should benefit the society. At the same time, do the smallest task with your whole heart."

In-charge Vice-Chancellor Prof. Amit Kumar Saxena took a retrospective look at the arduous journey of the university with contributions of many people and provided detailed information about the upgradation from State University to Central University. After that, the Chief Guest Prof.

Neelambari Dave, former Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, Rajkot Gujarat flagged off the procession of e-rickshaws and bicycles acquired under the Green Campus Campaign. Handicraft exhibition by the Department of Rural Technology and Department of Social Work and medicinal tea stall set up by the students of the Pharmacy Department were other highlights of the celebrations. Earlier, in the program organized at the Silver Jubilee Auditorium, the guests lit the lamp and offered flowers at the statue of Maa Saraswati and Baba Guru Ghasidas. Simultaneously, the Tarang Band gave a mesmerizing presentation of Saraswati Vandana and Kulgeet. After that, the

guests on the stage were welcomed with saplings. The welcome address was delivered by the Convener of the event, Dean Student Welfare, Dr. M.N. Tripathi.

Certificates and medals were given to the winners of events and competitions, students of NSS and NCC by the guests on the stage. The guests were felicitated with shawls, shreephals, and mementoes. The program was conducted by Dr. Garima Tiwari, Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment Science. The Registrar of the University Prof. Manish Srivastava, delivered the vote of thanks. Deans of various schools, heads of departments, teachers, officers, employees, research scholars and students were present at the function.

Prominent Pakistani lawyer murdered in Peshawar High Court bar room firing

Peshawar, Jan 16 (PTI):

A prominent Pakistani lawyer was murdered on Monday under dramatic circumstances after another lawyer opened fire at him in the bar room of the Peshawar High Court.

Abdul Latif Afridi, 79, was the former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and a key figure at the forefront of the lawyers' movement in Pakistan that culminated in the restoration of former Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry. On Monday, Afridi was seated in the bar room at the Peshawar High Court, when Adnan, a trainee lawyer, opened fire at him, police said. The senior lawyer was immediately shifted to the Lady Reading Hospital



Former Supreme Court Bar Association president and senior lawyer Latif Afridi was killed during firing inside the Peshawar High Court (PHC) bar room on Monday.

here, but he was pronounced dead on arrival, hospital spokesperson Muhammad Asim said. Six bullets were fired at Afridi, Asim said. Police have arrested Adnan. He

was shifted to the anti-terrorism court here under tight security. Police suspected the attack was carried out of "personal enmity". They are also probing how Adnan managed to bring a pistol inside the Peshawar High Court premises. In 1979, Afridi was imprisoned by former Pakistan President General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq for participating in political activities against his regime's martial law. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed "deep sorrow" over Afridi's murder. "I pray that the bereaved family bear this loss with fortitude. The worsening law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is alarming," Prime Minister Sharif said in a tweet.

19 dead, dozens injured in Senegal road crash

Dakar, Jan 16 (AP): A bus swerved to avoid hitting a donkey and collided with a truck, killing at least 19 people and injuring dozens of others in Senegal on Monday, authorities said.

The collision happened near Ngeun Sarr in the country's north, President Macky Sall tweeted.

"Yet another fatal accident on our roads," he said. "My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Speedy recovery to the injured."

The crash involved a public bus and a transport truck, the fire department said. The bus was apparently trying to avoid hitting a donkey, local fire department commander Lt. Ousseynou Ndiaye said.

Last week, 40 people were killed in a bus crash in Gnivy village, in Senegal's Kaffrine region. After that crash, the government announced reforms to try and stem collisions.

PREPARATION FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR



Women clean statues of Chinese gods in preparation for Lunar New Year celebrations at the Dhanagun Temple in Bogor, Indonesia, Monday, Jan. 16. People of Chinese descent in the world's most populous Muslim country are preparing to celebrate Lunar New Year of the Rabbit on Jan. 22.

As 37 die in apartment strike, Russia seen readying long war

Kyiv, Jan 16 (AP):

The death toll from a weekend Russian missile strike on an apartment building in the southeastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro has risen to 37, authorities said on Monday, as western analysts identified signs the Kremlin was preparing for a drawn-out war in Ukraine after almost 11 months of fighting.

The victims from Saturday's strike on the multi-story residential tower included two children, Ukraine's National Police reported, and 15 children are among the 75 injured.

The rescue and search operation was ongoing, with 39 people, including six children, taken from the ruins so far, the police said in a statement.



Rescuers work on a residential building destroyed after a missile strike, in Dnipro. A strike on a residential building in the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro killed 37 people and many more injured, officials said.

About 1,700 people lived in the apartment building. Residents said there were no military facilities at the site. The reported death toll made it the deadliest single attack on civilians since before the summer, according to The Associated

Press-Frontline War Crimes Watch project. The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, called the

strike, and others like it, "inhumane aggression" because it directly targeted civilians.

"There will be no impunity for these crimes," he said in a tweet on Sunday.

Asked about the strike on Monday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian military doesn't target residential buildings and suggested the Dnipro building was hit as a result of Ukrainian air defence actions.

The Ukrainian military said on Sunday that it did not have the means to intercept the type of Russian missile used in Saturday's strike.

The strike on the building came amid a wider barrage of Russian cruise missiles across Ukraine.

Myanmar arms industry growing after army takeover

Bangkok, Jan 16 (AP):

Companies from at least 13 countries have helped Myanmar build up its capacity to produce weapons that are being used to commit atrocities following a 2021 military takeover, independent international experts have found.

The report released Monday by the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar details how the country has stepped up arms production since the army seized power on February 1, 2021, igniting a mass public opposition movement.

The army's takeover from elected civilian leaders reversed nearly a decade of progress to

ward democracy after 50 years of military rule. After security forces used lethal force against peaceful demonstrators, opponents of military rule took up arms. Some UN experts have characterized the situation as a civil war. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners has documented more than 2,700 civilian deaths in the violence, including 277 children, while more than 13,000 people have been detained. The true number is believed to be much higher.

Companies in the US, Europe, Asia and the Middle East are supporting the military supply chain, the report says, urging those businesses

to ensure they are not facilitating human rights abuses. The growth of the homegrown arms industry comes as some countries have enforced arms embargoes or sanctions against individuals and companies involved in trading or manufacturing arms.

In October, the US Treasury imposed sanctions against Aung Moe Myint, a businessman close to the army who it said facilitates arms deals on its behalf. His brother, Hlaing Moe Myint, and the trading company they founded, Dynasty International Company Ltd., were also targeted. One of its directors, Myo Thitsar, also was designated for sanctions.

South Korea president, in UAE, backs return to nuclear power



Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, receives Yoon Suk Yeol, South Korea President and Kim Keon-hee, First Lady of South Korea, upon their arrival for a state visit reception, at Qasr Al Watani, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Abu Dhabi, Jan 16 (AP):

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said on Monday that his nation's efforts to be carbon neutral by 2050 would rely in part on returning to nuclear power, even though his predecessor had tried to move away from atomic power. Yoon's comments at a

summit in the United Arab Emirates, made in front of the country's leader, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, served to underline Seoul's commitment to nuclear power as it works to finish the Arabian Peninsula's first atomic power plant.

That could see South Korea in line for lucrative maintenance contracts and future projects in the UAE, which Seoul has grown closer to over recent years.

"Korea has ... declared its 2050 carbon neutrality goal," Yoon said in an address at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week.

"To achieve this goal, we are working to rapidly restore the nuclear power system, which supplies carbon-free electricity."

"If our two countries join efforts in clean energy development it will not only enhance our two countries energy security but also will contribute to global energy market stability," Yoon added. Yoon's predecessor, President Moon Jae-in, sought to move South Korea away from nuclear power amid safety and graft scandals and Japan's 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Sydney, Jan 16 (AP):

A 10-year-old Australian boy who was critically injured two weeks ago when two helicopters collided, killing four people, had woken from a coma in hospital and held his father's hand, a family priest said.

Nicholas Tadros remained in the Queensland Children's Hospital in Brisbane where medical staff described his condition on Monday as "critical but stable."

His mother, Vanessa Tadros, 36, was killed when two Sea World theme park helicopters collided during joy flights on Jan. 2 at the tourist city of Gold Coast, 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Brisbane. She was buried on Monday after a funeral near the family home in



western Sydney. One of the priests who conducted the funeral, Father Suresh Kumar, posted on social media on Monday that the son has "been off life support now for a few days and his body has responded very well." "They have lowered his sedation medication at times to see if he is responsive and he has woken up and (been) able to respond to some

questions with a nod or a shake of the head," Kumar posted.

"He is also able to hold his Dad's hand," Kumar added, referring to Nicholas's father, Simon Tadros, who is credited as the source of the information in the statement.

Nicholas remained on a ventilator to support his breathing and was scheduled for more surgeries, the priest said.

Along with Nicholas's mother, British couple Ron and Diane Hughes and pilot Ashley Jenkinson were also killed in the collision that is being investigated by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

The other victims who remain in hospital are a 33-year-old mother and her 9-year-old son. The conditions of both are listed as stable.

2 killed, 12 missing in north China chemical plant explosion

Beijing, Jan 16 (AP):

A massive explosion at a chemical plant in northeastern China has killed at least two people and left 12 missing. Another 34 people were injured in the explosion Sunday on the outskirts of the city of Panjin in Liaoning province east of the capital Beijing. News releases from the local government showed photos of flames and thick black smoke rising from the complex of chemical processing machinery, pipes and storage containers. Fire crews have brought the blaze under control and the local environmental department was monitoring the impact on air quality

in the area, the government of Panshan County in the city's suburbs said in a news release. The cause of the accident remained under investigation, authorities said. People posting on social media said they felt the shock of the explosion, but the damage did not appear to extend beyond the plant. China, with the world's second-largest economy, suffers deadly industrial accidents on a regular basis. The central government has pledged stronger safety measures ever since an explosion in 2015 at a chemical warehouse in the northern port city of Tianjin killed 173 people, most of them firefighters and police officers.

Pakistan's average productivity growth remained just 1.5 pc from 2010 to 2020

Islamabad, Jan 16 (PTI):

Pakistan's average productivity growth, a crucial determinant of an economy's growth, remained just 1.5 per cent from 2010 to 2020, according to a media report.

Dawn reported that the study titled Sectoral Total Factor Productivity in Pakistan and noted that the growth of productivity is a crucial determinant of an economy's growth that has to be pushed higher to over 3 per cent. The study was the prod-

uct of research conducted by the planning ministry and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) — a think tank.

The study used unique listed and non-listed data from 1,321 firms divided into 61 sectors to estimate productivity growth in the country.

High-productivity growth sectors were mostly based on services or tech, whereas those with medium to low or negative productivity growth are in manufacturing, as per the report. Total factor productivi-

ty (TFP) growth is a crucial determinant of long-term output growth.

According to the study, evidence showed that economies that had TFP growth of more than 3 per cent had a GDP growth rate of 8 per cent or more, whereas TFP growth of less than 3 per cent was associated with a GDP growth rate between 3 per cent and 7 per cent.

The economy-wide TFP growth estimates show that both TFP and GDP growth have been erratic in Pakistan since the early 1970s.

For some years, TFP growth has even remained negative. Moreover, the economy-wide TFP growth, according to different estimates, has hovered around 2 per cent over the last few decades, it added.

In the study, 1,321 firms are divided into 61 sectors, with each firm's data spanning a period from 2010 to 2020. The study's results show that the average TFP growth for all the 61 sectors included in the analysis between 2010 and 2020 remained 1.5 per cent.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MANIYARI WATER RESOURCES DIVISION MUNGELI, DISTT. MUNGELI (C.G.)

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

IN NIT No. : 19/SAC/2022-23, Mungeli, Dated 29-12-2022 System Tender No. 118342 (3rd Call) Whose G. No. is 97174/5 Dated 31-12-2022 following amendments are made -

S. No.	Particulars	Previous Published	Amendment As
1.	Bid Due date & time	16-01-2023, 17:30 Hours	19-01-2023, 17:30 Hours
2.	Bid Open, start date & time	17-01-2023, 11:30 Hours	20-01-2023, 11:30 Hours
3.	Physical Turnover- Hard Rock Excavation	Required Qty. for Pre-Qualification 676x0.5 = 225.33 Cum 08/12	Required Qty. for Pre-Qualification NIL

All other terms and conditions of NIT will remain unchanged.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MANIYARI WATER RESOURCES
DIVISION MUNGELI
DISTT. MUNGELI (C.G.)
G-97666/1

DIRECTORATE, SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE, CHHATTISGARH

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, International Hockey Stadium,
G.E. Road, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)
Phone No 0771-2263178, Web.: www.sportsyw.cg.gov.in,
Email ID- dir-sportsyw.cg@gov.in

No. NIT/1/Store/2022-23/ Raipur, Dated: / /2023

Expression of Interest

26th January 2023 Parade is scheduled to be organized in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. As per the orders of the Government of Chhattisgarh, this year Department of Sports & Youth Welfare, Chhattisgarh will also display the departmental tableau/hanki in the parade. A tableau hanki is to be displayed on the flagship schemes of the department on the occasion of Republic Day 26 January 2023 in the state capital city Raipur.

Expression of interest is invited for preparation of the same from reputed registered firms/agencies having successfully prepared tableaux/hanki during 26th January Raipur Parade in the last 10 years.

The EOJ document may be obtained from office of the undersigned on any working day during working hours on payment of Rs. 1000/- (Rs. One Thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft/Bankers Cheque issued by any nationalized bank in favor of Director Sports & Youth Welfare, Chhattisgarh Raipur.

Tender Schedule is as under:
Issue of EOJ Document - 16.01.2023
Last date of sale of tender document - 21-01-2023 Up to 11:00 AM
Last date and Time of Submission of Bid - 21-01-2023 Up to 12:00 Noon
Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid - 21-01-2023 at 01:00 PM
Right of acceptance/rejection of any or all proposals reserved with the Director, Sports & Youth Welfare C.G.

Director
Sports & Youth Welfare,
Chhattisgarh, Raipur
G-97665/2



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 105

Viksit Yuva - Viksit Bharat

Youths are the powerhouse of any society. Young people can do many things either in a positive way or negative way. It depends on how young people are being mentored in their families or in academic institutions or in society. There is confusion amongst us when we use the word 'youth'. Well, the definition of youth may vary from country to country. According to the United Nations youth means young people between the age group of 15 and 24. According to the National Youth Policy (NYP), a young person up to the age of 29 is a youth in India. The NYP 2021 draws a detailed roadmap towards the vision outlined for the youth in the coming decade and delineates the actions within each priority area. One of the important days for the young people of India is the celebration of National Youth Day (NYD). NYD, also known as Vivekananda Jayanti, is celebrated on 12th January, the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. In 1984, the Government of India declared this day as NYD and since 1985 the event has been celebrated in India every year. We should not be in confusion as 12th August is observed as International Youth Day around the world. Swami Vivekananda's teachings and quotes have always been a source of inspiration for the youth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Youth Festival in Karnataka today. This is the 26th National Youth Festival of India. The festival was kicked off by PM Modi in the Hubballi district of the Southern state. Apart from this, schools and colleges from across India conducted different competitions, conferences, seminars, etc. Press Information Bureau's press release dated 10th January reads, "The National Youth Festival is held every year to provide exposure to our talented youth at the national level, along with galvanizing them towards nation building. It brings diverse cultures from all parts of the country on a common platform and unites the participants in the spirit of Ek Bharat and Shreshtha Bharat. This year, the Festival is being held in Hubballi-Dharwad in Karnataka from the 12th to the 16th of January, with the theme being 'Viksit Yuva - Viksit Bharat'. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organizing 'Y Talks' throughout the country for Y (Youth)-20 activities of G20. The National Youth Festival will set the pace for Y-20 engagement across the country by sensitizing the youth about the themes of Y-20. This year the NYF is being celebrated as Green Youth Festival where only reusable cutlery, napkins etc., are being used. All the mementoes, medals, and stationery are of reusable material. Water refilling stations are set up to reduce the use of disposables. This year's theme of 'Viksit Yuva - Viksit Bharat' means developed youth means developed India and to make our youths developed we have to take up different activities on a regular basis. Indian youths can wonder and lead the world in many aspects provided if they are mentored positively. Our youths are always proactive and they need proper mentoring and guidance at the right time. If the energy of youths is used for destructive activities then India cannot develop easily. Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved when the youth take part in different civic action programmes and volunteer activities apart from their studies and profession. Skill development is a must for all youths of the country to make India a superpower in the years to come. Let us learn from the teachings of Swami Vivekananda and all others who have done many activities for the welfare of youths. Together we can make a healthy and developed nation, so let us take up the challenge to be a change-maker and bring positive social transformation to society. Let us not forget that youths are not 'useless but they are used less', so let us use youths in different activities to make a developed country.

RVM will be a challenging exercise for ECI

Yash Pal Ralhan

BSP had already stated that ballot paper system be reintroduced and rejected the idea of EVM and not to talk of Remote Voting Machines. The various political parties had raised many objections including the clarification of definition of migrant labourer. Now it is the duty of election commission to satisfy the eight national political parties and 57 State parties. If sooner or later and after mutual understanding among the various political parties this RVM is implemented then it will be a revolutionary step taken by election commission. But as per the interest shown by various political parties, it appears to be difficult to implement the same. In the previous parliament elections also opposition parties had raised many objections on the use of EVM and due to this reason five EVM from each assembly are selected for each and every vote counted. In the entire country there was difference of one vote only. It is still a matter of study in the intense heat the software show some irregularities. In the recently concluded assembly elections in Gujarat, the low turnout made a special appeal by the Election commission to go for the RVM. Now the election commissioner had come forward with new idea of Remote Voting Machine and in this regard commission had called a meeting of stakeholders to know the views of all political parties and election commission will study the suggestions and again call a meeting of the all parties. Now let us see what Remote Electronic Voting machine is and how it will help to increase the percentage of voting. Migrant voters would not need to travel to their home districts to exercise their franchise if the remote electronic voting machine is implemented properly. The RVM will enable domestic migrant voters to exercise voting rights from a single machine. The multi constituency remote EVM can handle up to 72 constituencies from a single remote polling booth and the remote e-voting machine will be a standalone device which does not need connectivity to operate. According to the EC, the voters' inability to vote due to internal migration is a vital issue that needed to be addressed. This invention would improve voter turnout and ensure the participation of migrants in elections. If implemented correctly, migrant voters need not travel to their home district to exercise their voting rights. The Representation of the People Act, The Conduct of Election Rules and The Registration of Electors Rules will need to be amended to introduce remote voting, the EC's statement pointed out. The poll panel said, "Migrants are unwilling to vote at their place of work for various reasons such as not having enough social and emotional connections with the issues of the area of migration, unwillingness to get their names deleted in an electoral roll of their native constituencies as they have permanent residence or property, etc." Eradicating such issues is the primary objective of having these RVMs. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said, "After focusing on youth and urban apathy, remote voting will be a transformational initiative for strengthening participation in electoral democracy." A statement issued by the commission implied that, with the goal of finding a technological solution that is credible, accessible, and acceptable to all stakeholders, the poll panel has examined the possibility of using a modified version of the time-tested model of M3 (Mark 3) EVMs, which will enable voting at remote polling stations - polling stations outside the domestic migrants' home constituency.

PROTEST



Ranchi: Security personnel detain contractual health workers protesting over their demand for regularisation of their jobs, in Ranchi, Monday, Jan. 16.

Economic Instability In Neighbouring Countries Is Worrying For India

K R SUDHAMAN



World Bank and International Monetary Fund might be gung ho about Indian economy, but emerging geo political situation in the neighbouring countries is a major source of concern and tottering economies in the sub-continent make the situation worse. India might be in a bright spot in otherwise sagging and recessionary global economy but neighbours, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar are virtually bankrupt and heading towards severe debt trap. The economic situation in Bangladesh and Maldives is not that comfortable and facing severe downside risks. Coupled with this, the rapidly slowing Chinese economy with the fallout of uncontrolled Covid situation, raise several difficult questions to Indian policy planners. The geopolitical situation emerging from Sino-Indian stand-off on the line of actual control particularly in Galwan and Tawang raise several issues. The Chinese belligerence on the Indian borders notwithstanding, the stand-off between US and China over Taiwan made things worse. The internal strife due to agitating masses over various issues including lockdown, need to democratize Chinese polity, highhandedness of officials makes the geopolitical situation very difficult. A cold war-like situation between India and China can only lead to hike in defence expenditure at the cost of development. The emerging situation in Pakistan is most worrying. There is political instability, foreign ex-

change reserves have dipped to \$4.5 billion, just enough for 10 days imports. More dangerous is the virtual civil war in FATA, Kyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan with TTP's all out war against Pakistan establishment. The militant group has taken virtual control in many of these areas and Pakistan army is having a tough time in dealing with the guerrillas. The TTP terrorists were trained by ISI and they are now going all out against ISI and Pak armed forces. What former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton once told Pakistan that "if snakes are bred in the backyard, it will come to bite you one day" appears to have come true now. Pakistan is in a virtual mess - politically and economically. Pak has no money now to sustain an all out fight against TTP. Pakistan is selling whatever ammunitions it has to Ukraine at the behest of US as well. The internal strife in Pakistan is in a way good for India as it would keep them engaged and refrain from misadventure along the Indian borders at their plate being full at the moment. But an unstable Pakistan with tottering economy and uncontrolled terrorism unleashed by TTP could pose a headache for India. Afghanistan and TTP never recognized Durand line that artificially divides nationalist pashtoons and Afghanistan-Pakistan. The Baloch never integrated with Pakistan right from independence and they too are demanding separation. Baloch separatist movement has now joined hands with TTP, which has made the situation far more worse. There are also widespread protests in Pakistan occupied Kashmir to merge with India because of high handedness of Pakistan establishment and new laws that are discriminatory to them. While Gilgit-Baltistan wants to merge with Ladakh, POK wants to merge with Jammu and Kashmir. These developments may have some spill-over effect on India, which has to ensure its borders re-

main secure. India could not afford to lower its guard. Sri Lankan economy is already in doldrums and thanks to the largesse of India, the island republic has managed to keep its head above water. One good thing that has happened is the move to reduce the size of its armed forces in a phased manner. This will reduce the burden on the exchequer. This is a welcome development as it does not require that huge army, that too with militancy being virtually eliminated. Pakistan too can draw lessons from Sri Lanka to streamline its expenses by reducing the unwieldy strength of 600,000 men in its armed forces in a phased manner. The situation may not be ripe at the moment with Pakistan's western borders not secure. But it could be suggestion for action in the medium term as such a large army had led to corruption and huge drain on its resources. One of the major cause of economic concern in Myanmar too is the large and unwieldy armed forces. Myanmar has been mostly ruled by military junta, which commits frequent political atrocities to remain in power. The movement against the military junta has gained momentum. Myanmar military establishment has no time to look after economic needs. The recent elections in Nepal had resulted in communists capturing power in the landlocked country. Nepal has been traditionally friendly to India, but that situation is changing rapidly now Nepal's Communist government led by Prime Minister Prachanda is widely expected to dance to the tune of China and already there are proposals to give new thrust to the stalled Chinese BRI project. Also Prachanda is looking for strengthening further economic relations with China which shares a long border in Nepal's north. Culturally, Nepalese are very close to India and even today recruitment is made for Indian Army's Gorkha regiment. Nepal also shares a long border with India on the

southern side in particular. This border is very porous and is widely used for smuggling drugs and counterfeit notes from Pakistan. Pakistan's ISI have set up several sleeper cells along the UP border using mainly Bangladeshi refugees. These are matter of concern but Indian authorities, aware of this problem are taking actions to check the menace. There may not be significant geopolitical concerns from Bangladesh. But its slowing economy particularly after covid is matter of concern. The increasing Chinese presence the country too needed to be watched carefully. The political situation is also volatile in view of the coming general elections in 2024 and the hard campaigning by the anti-India opposition party BNP to unseat Awami League. In sum, the emerging geo-political and economic situation in countries surrounding India in the sub-continent is certainly a matter of concern for India. Political instability and sagging economies surrounding India needed to be handled deftly so that spill-over effect is minimized. So far India has played its cards well, diplomatically, politically and economically. It has extended support to countries like Sri Lanka and a bailout is happening there. Nepal could turn out to be a headache in the face of emerging political situation, which needed to be handled carefully. Pakistan however is major source of worry and some hawks there may indulge in some misadventure to divert attention of the local population. There is not only economic woes, the frequent attacks by TTP terrorists have made life insecure there. The inflation is now around 24 per cent and one roti costs Rs 25 Pakistani rupee there. There is widespread food shortage as well particularly after the unprecedented and widespread floods in KPK area and Balochistan. Pakistan has also run out of fuel reserves and the foreign exchange is at its lowest level.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appalling find outs from NASA

According to a NASA analysis, the Earth's average surface temperature in 2022 was the fifth warmest year compared to last six decades. According to researchers from NASA's; global temperatures in 2022 were about 1 degrees Celsius higher than the average for the baseline period continuing the planet's long-term warming trend. This warming trend is alarming. The effects of our changing climate are already being felt: Cyclones are becoming more powerful, forest fires are getting worse, droughts are wreaking havoc, and sea levels are rising especially in Asia. Since the start of modern recordkeeping in 1880 by NASA, the last nine years have been the warmest on record. The simple reason for the warming trend is that human activities continue to pump enormous amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Following a brief decline in 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, human-caused greenhouse gas emissions have increased as per reports. Therefore stringent actions needed around the globe to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for top notch future.

Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Mediation by India in Ukraine Russian war

Reports are emanating from USA that India may meditate in Ukraine Russian war and if it happens so it will a repetition of the previous history as in Indo Pak war of 1965 in which Russia had mediated and Tashkand agreement was signed but the mystery still exists about the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri. Presently India is at epicenter of international developments due to positive and constructive role played by India. Even in Pakistan Indian foreign policy is appreciated by various political parties. Due to turmoil in Sri Lanka India was at doorstep of that country by providing humanitarian aid. WHO highly appreciated Indian government for providing the COVID vaccines to the various countries on humanitarian grounds. Presently in foreign policy of India old era of Jawaharlal Nehru is developing when India was at forefront of international developments. Due to Ukraine war there was shortage of wheat in world market and India exported wheat to many countries but when report came in that due to climate change as well as due to floods in various parts of the country there are chances of fall of the production in the country then immediately ban was imposed on export of wheat by India. Though there was criticism of this step of the country but government did not care about it and followed the free and independent foreign policy which is strength of the country irrespective of this which party is in power as it is a continuous process of the foreign policy.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

5 days week Banking - need of the hour



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) have decided to go on two-day strike from January 30 demanding a five-day working week for bank staff, among others. Apart from 5 day week, the UFBU is also demanding immediate commencement of negotiations on the charter of demands for wage revision, updating of pension for retirees and resolution of residual issues like

update of pension, immediate start of negotiations on charter of demands for wage revision and adequate recruitment in all cadres, among others. As per reports, the united Forum of Bank Unions has been trying for the last 28 months to resolve the remaining issues, however, no positive response was given by the Indian Banks' Association. The 11th wage settlement of bank employees occurred on November 11, 2020, between the Indian Banks' Association and the United Forum of Bank Unions, the umbrella body of trade unions in the banking sector. Some of the issues related to the agreement, in which a 5-day week in banks, stagnation increment is not given to banks by the Indian Banks Association, besides promotion and salary, pension fixation issues etc. Two Saturdays (2nd and 4th) were declared off in 10th bipartite settlement, signed on the 25 May 2015. This was

termed as a great achievement by bank unions, who have been asking for five-day week. Before two Saturdays off, all Saturdays were half day working, as such, technically no benefit was passed on in terms of working hours. The demand of bank employees' is not unreasonable because Central Government and most State Government offices work only five days. A five-day week is already available in the international banking system. It is also available here - the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), central and state governments, and companies in the public sector work for (only) five days a week. The working conditions in the Banks have been strenuous. Poor infrastructure, lack of adequate staff has made the officers work till late in the night, resulting in poor health, huge pressure on the officers, which culminates in serious work-leisure mismatches, life style diseases and of late, repeat-

ed acts of suicides being committed by the officers of the Banks. With the advancement of technology, most of the transactions can be processed without physically visiting branches. Since 2015, the banks have developed various alternative delivery channels for delivery of various services and most of the services like, fund transfers, bank statements, cheque book requests, loan applications, cash withdrawal, transaction enquiry, account opening, life certificates etc. are available online without human intervention. In a letter to the Indian Banks' Association, the All India Bank Employees' Association has proposed that working hours per day may be increased by 30 minutes and the present working hours may be advanced by 30 minutes in the morning. It has also proposed increasing the existing customer service hours/non-cash transaction

banking hours by 30 minutes. According to AIBOC, India is in the midst of digital revolution. As per experts, India is set to leapfrog many advanced countries in this space. Customers in the country are leaning towards digital adoption of financial services faster than previous estimates. There will be a paradigm shift in banking transactions from the brick and mortar banking to digital transactions concept. It is quite evident that the work pressure in the banking industry is the highest in the country and due to this branch banking should be done only during weekdays, keeping in mind the health of employees and their ability to perform. Having five days a week will lead to higher productivity and improve the efficiency of bank employees. Don't we think, 5 days week will also be a positive step in the direction of Digital India in conformity with PM's vision?

BRIEF

NFRA

New Delhi: In a first of its kind move aimed at improving audit quality, the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) on Monday proposed introducing annual transparency reports requirement for audit firms. The watchdog has come out with draft requirements to be followed by auditors and audit firms for preparing Annual Transparency Reports (ATRs). According to NFRA, the effort is aimed at enhancing the transparency about management and governance of audit firms and their internal policy framework to ensure high quality audits and preventing conflict of interest by maintaining independence.

USISPF

New Delhi: Quad+, a journal dedicated to the intersection of geopolitics and technology, has been launched by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). The journal will have a special focus on understanding and analyzing the implications of the Quad, the new strategic coalition between the United States, India, Australia, and Japan.

Maruti Suzuki

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India on Monday said it has hiked prices of its vehicles across models by about 1.1 per cent. This is the second price hike that the carmaker is undertaking in the ongoing fiscal year, after increasing it in April 2022. In December last year, the company had said it would hike prices of its vehicles to offset the impact of rising input costs and make provisions to update the model range to conform to stricter emission norms which will kick in from April 2023. "An estimated weighted average of increase across models stands at around 1.1 per cent."

Wipro shares climb

New Delhi: Shares of Wipro on Monday climbed nearly 2 per cent in early trade after the company reported a better-than-expected 2.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit for the December 2022 quarter. The stock gained 1.81 per cent to Rs 400.80 apiece on the BSE. At the NSE, it climbed 1.80 per cent to Rs 401 apiece. Wipro Ltd on Friday reported a better-than-expected 2.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit for the December 2022 quarter to Rs 3,053 crore and exuded optimism about "strong" bookings for the fourth quarter despite global headwinds.

WPI inflation

New Delhi: The wholesale price-based inflation declined to 4.95 per cent in December 2022, mainly due to fall in prices of food articles and crude petroleum. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was 5.85 per cent in November 2022 and 14.27 per cent in December 2021. Inflation in food articles was (-)1.25 per cent, while in fuel and power it was 18.09 per cent during December 2022.

Indian delicacies add fragrant colours to snow-white Davos



The India Lounge: This will be the focal point for all G2B and B2B networking and engagements. The lounge will showcase India's growth story, its transforming infrastructure landscape, rising digitalisation and growing startup ecosystem and the country's credentials as a top investment destination.

Davos, Jan 16 (PTI):

As a fresh round of snowfall made this Alpine resort town whiter, fragrance of Indian delicacies could be felt all over the main Promenade street of

Europe's highest habitat. Dotted the street, a number of Indian pavilions readied themselves with a wide range of foods and drinks for the five days of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting be-

ginning Monday.

Topping the charts, the famous India Lounge was seen buzzing with visitors even as main activities there would begin only on Tuesday. Similar was the case with pavilions of Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, as also those of several Indian companies including TCS, HCL Tech and Wipro.

More than Indians, who were also seen enjoying their pizza and fondue, foreigners appeared more keen on samosas, kachoris, tikkas and biryanis, as also various Indian flavours of tea and coffee.

Special chefs have been arranged for the platters being served with most of the food ingredients being sourced directly from India.

Reliance suspends gas auction after change in marketing rules

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner bp plc on Monday suspended a planned auction for the sale of natural gas from their eastern offshore KG-D6 block after the government altered marketing rules to cap margins.

In a notice, Reliance and its partner BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd (BPEAL) said the auction has been suspended indefinitely.

E-bidding for the sale of 6 million standard cubic meters per day of gas was originally planned for January 18 but was later pushed back first to January 19 and then to January 24.

On January 13, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas published new rules for the sale and resale of gas produced from discoveries in deep sea, ultra-deep water

and high pressure-high temperature areas with marketing and pricing freedom. It required bidders to state upfront if they were purchasing the gas through the auction for 'own use as end consumers (including for use of their group entities) or as a trader.'

While end consumers were allowed to resell any unconsumed gas, traders participating in the auction were allowed to resell subject to a maximum trading margin of Rs 200 per thousand cubic meters.

"In any situation, which may require proportionate distribution of the gas offered under the bidding process, the contractor (company selling the gas) shall offer gas to bidders belonging to CNG (transport)/PNG(domestic) sector, fertilizer, LPG and power sector in that

order," the ministry said, adding any leftover gas shall be offered to other bidders.

In the auction that Reliance-bp launched on December 29, 2022, the gas was intended for sale to end consumers who were not permitted to resell any unconsumed gas. Also, there was no clarity on the participation of traders.

"It is hereby notified that the current bidding process is suspended till further notice," the two firms said in a notice on Monday.

It did not give the reason for the suspension but industry sources said the suspension was linked to the new rules brought by the government.

The two partners invited bids for the sale of 6 mmscmd, or a third of the volumes being produced at KG-D6, starting February

TOURISTS AT SOLANG VALLEY



Tourists visit at Solang Valley, in Manali, Monday, Jan. 16.

Tripura govt, NTPC REL ink pact for development of green energy projects



NTPC Renewable Energy Limited

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

The government of Tripura and NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL) have signed an agreement for development of renewable energy projects in the northeastern state.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and senior officials of NTPC Ltd in the national capital on Monday, an official statement said.

"NTPC REL signed an MoU with the government

of Tripura on 16-01-2023 for development of renewable energy projects in Tripura," it said.

The agreement aims to develop large-sized renewable energy projects in Tripura and shall help the state in meeting its clean energy commitments.

Under the MoU, floating and ground mounted renewable energy projects will be developed in the state.

Tripura power secretary Brijesh Pandey, NTPC Ltd Director (Commercial) C K Mondal, NTPC Director (Finance) J Srinivasan, and NTPC REL's CEO Mohit Bhargava were present at the event.

Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDA) is the nodal agency for implementing renewable energy projects in Tripura.

Auto Expo 2023 - Components Show sees largest-ever footfall: CII



New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

The Auto Expo 2023 - Components Show ended on Sunday with the largest ever footfall of 1,22,500 business delegates from 65 countries, CII said.

The event had pavilions from Japan and South Korea, among other countries. "The 800 plus exhibitors from

15 countries with six country pavilions from France, Germany, Japan, Poland, South Korea, and the UK, witnessed packed stalls with serious visitors from India and overseas during the four-day exhibition at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi," said.

The expo was organised jointly by Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA), CII, and Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) from January 12-15.

There were over 1,400 new products on display which were the special attraction among the visitors at this year's expo.

Some of the innovations and futuristic products on display included low weight tailgate and sunroof, tyre changing attachment for EVs, energy-efficient power control units, nano-catalyst for coating CDPF, friction motor cooling system, semi-solid li-ion cell, etc.

The expo was organised jointly by Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA), CII, and Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) from January 12-15.

Tata Motors, Kia, Hyundai expect sales momentum to continue in 2023

Greater Noida, Jan 16 (PTI):

Tata Motors, Kia India and Hyundai are expecting sales momentum to continue this year as well after witnessing robust growth in dispatches to dealers in the last year while pressure remains of a high base effect, inflation and higher interest costs.

Tata Motors, which crossed five lakh cumulative wholesale mark in 2022, is hopeful of robust performance this year on the back of new launches as well as better traction for its internal combustion engine models, electric vehicles and CNG trims.

"It (sales growth) will be steep, hopefully, it will not be as steep as it was because the denominator

used to be lower, now it is becoming higher," Tata Motors Managing Director - Passenger Vehicle and Electric Vehicles Shailesh Chandra told PTI in an interaction.

When asked if the sales growth would be in single or double digits, he said: "Double digit penetration is what we are looking at." On electric vehicle sales, which touched close to 43,000 units last year, he noted that it is bound to increase with new products expected to hit the market.

"Absolutely, it has to. If we are adding a new product completely it should. That is the intention," he noted when asked if the company expects an increase in EV sales.

Tata Motors' passenger

vehicle sales outpaced industry growth last year to cross the five lakh units mark.

"Obviously, the reason for this significant growth is the strengthening of our brand ... If you talk about Tata cars, these are synonymous with safety. And that is one big change that has come, the perception of the Tata brand," Chandra said.

Second is the contemporariness of the vehicles, he added.

"And a big change that we have brought in the nation not only for our brand is the green mobility. And that had a positive rub-off on the entire brand on the ICE side," Chandra said.

Kia India VP and Head-Sales & Marketing Hardeep Singh Brar said

the company expects to outpace the industry growth this year as well.

"Last year, we grew by almost 40 per cent whereas the industry growth was about 23 per cent and we also saw our market share increase to 6.7 per cent from 5.9 per cent in 2021," he said.

He noted that the company expects headwinds in the industry because of inflation, higher interest costs in 2023.

"So we think 5 per cent would be a pretty good estimate from an overall industry perspective (in terms of growth)...we have grown much more than industry. So yes, we would like to grow more than that...we would still like to hit at least double digit or more than that," Brar said.

Around 58 pc builders expect housing prices to rise further in 2023

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

Around 58 per cent of developers expect housing prices to increase this year because of rise in input costs, while 32 per cent builders feel it will remain stable, according to a survey.

According to the 'Real Estate Developers Sentiment Survey', by Realtors apex body CREDAI, real estate consultant Colliers India and property research firm Liases Foras, 43 per cent of developers expect residential demand to remain stable in 2023, while 31 per cent feel the demand would increase up to 25 per cent. As many as 341 real estate developers from various parts of the country participated in the joint survey conducted



during the last two months. "An overwhelming 58 per cent of the developers feel that housing prices are likely to rise in 2023 amidst volatile input costs, economic uncertainties and sustained inflation rates," the report said.

However, the survey revealed that about 32 per cent of the developers be-

lieve that the prices will remain stable in 2023.

Housing prices have been on the rise over the last few quarters, led by robust housing demand as well as rise in input costs, the report said.

The survey report also showed that 43 per cent of developers saw a 10-20 per cent rise in project costs in

2022 amidst rising input costs. As per the survey, the developers want 'ease of doing business' from the government.

"Homebuyers remain enthused about purchasing homes, despite rising interest rates," Colliers India CEO Ramesh Nair said. Real estate developers too are focusing on launching projects that are aligned as per the needs of the homebuyers, Nair said, adding that builders are also focusing on completing their pending projects and bringing in demand-led supply.

The survey findings showed that almost half (46 per cent) of the developers believe that a probable recession will have a moderate impact on their business.

NHAI says no data available about faulty FASTags, penalties collected from users at toll plazas

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

State-owned NHAI has no information about faulty FASTags and the penalties collected from motorists in case their FASTags are non-functional at highway toll plazas.

In case a motorist does not have a FASTag or it is non-functional, then the person has to pay double the toll charges at toll plazas. According to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), more than 6 crore FASTags have been issued as on October 31, 2022.

However, it has no information about the number of faulty FASTag cases and the total amount of penalty collected from users despite having their vehicles fitted with the Radio Frequency

Identification (RFID) tag. In response to RTI queries about the number of faulty FASTag cases and the amount of penalties collected from the users for non-functional FASTags, NHAI said, "no such data is available".

"Total no. of 60,277,364 FASTags have been issued till 31.10.2022," it said in response to an application filed by PTI under the Right to Information Act.

A FASTag allows a user to pay the highway fee electronically without having to stop at the toll collection booths set up by the highway operators.

Since February 16, 2021, the government has made FASTag mandatory for all private as well as commercial vehicles.

As per rules, vehicles that do not have a valid or functional FASTag must

pay double the toll charge as penalty. On whether any penal action has been taken against any FASTag issuing agency for faulty FASTag, NHAI said, "no such data is available".

"Total toll collection through FASTag since 16.02.2021 to 16.04.2022 as per NPCI data for NHAI fee plaza is Rs 39,118.15 crore," said the RTI reply.

The total toll collection for NHAI fee plaza during FY22 stood at Rs 34,535 crore, the RTI reply said, citing data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Currently, a FASTag is issued by 24 banks. There are complaints from users that FASTags sometime do not function properly at toll plazas as a result of which they have to pay double the toll charges.

Selena reacts to body shaming comments after her Golden Globes appearance

Singer-actress Selena Gomez appeared to react to her online critics with a laugh. After attending the 2023 Golden Globes, the 'Only Murders in the Building' star apparently received comments from internet users regarding her physical appearance while posing for the cameras at the event. Wearing a show-stopping Valentino design featuring a velvet column gown with a high-slit and statement puff sleeves with a long train, Gomez, 30, showed up at the Beverly Hills Hotel after being nominated for best performance by an actress in a television series, comedy or musical for her role of Mabel Mora in the Hulu series, reports People magazine. Although she did not score a trophy for the category, the singer may have won the internet by seemingly responding to users who left unpleasant comments about her body after pictures and clips of her at the event were shared online. According to People, in a recorded Instagram Live video reposted via Pop News Daily account on TikTok, Gomez addressed the critics while chatting with her 9-year-old sister, Gracie Elliott Teefey. "I'm a little bit big right now because I enjoyed myself during the holidays," she told her followers before turning her head to Gracie, asking for her opinion, "Right?" After Gracie appeared to agree with the singer, Gomez later began to burst into laughter. Earlier this week, Gomez - who has long had a complicated relationship with social media and even deleted it from her phone in 2019 - teased her return to Instagram.



Dino Morea to make Telugu debut with some 'raw, brutal action' in 'Agent'

Actor Dino Morea, who is known for films like 'Raaz' and web series such as 'Hostages' and 'Tandav', feels that he is in the most interesting phase of his career and is set to make his foray in Telugu cinema with Surrender Reddy's spy thriller titled 'Agent' in which he will play the antagonist. The film will see him pulling off some A-grade action sequences. Talking about his penchant for action sequences, Dino said: "In the earlier phase of my career, filmmakers only perceived me as this sweet, good-looking boy next door. I was offered to play a romantic hero, but never got an opportunity to do an all-out action film. I have a knack for action as I am fit and flexible, but no one has ever tapped that part of my personality. In 'Agent', I will get to do some raw, brutal action and I'm excited about that." Shedding light on his look and character in the film, he added: "I play an



agent who's gone rogue. He's quite a crazy guy, and an anti-hero. I am flaunting long hair and a beard.

It has been nearly three years since I have seen my face without any facial hair. I grew my hair and beard for 'The Empire' and haven't cut it since then." When asked if he enjoys playing characters with grey shades, he shared: "There's a certain madness you can bring to a negative character and the audience loves watching that. Even as a kid, when I watched James Bond movies, I remembered the villains more than the protagonist. Look at The Dark Knight, the character of 'The Joker' is unforgettable in that film." While Dino has been a part of South films like the Tamil film 'Kandukondain Kandukondain' and Kannada film 'Julie', with 'Agent', he will make his debut in Telugu cinema. "They are making fantastic movies. We all know that some of their films have been huge blockbusters. I am working with director Surrender Reddy, who has already made some highly successful films.

Sonam Kapoor tweets about pollution in Mumbai, evokes varied reactions



Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor complained about pollution due to construction work in Mumbai and said that it is 'torturous' to drive in the city. She mentioned in her tweet that she was travelling from her house in Juhu to Bandra bandstand but it took really long to reach to her destination. She tweeted: "It's torturous to drive through Mumbai. It's taken me an hour to reach the bandstand from Juhu. Too much construction and digging everywhere. Pollution is through the roof. What's going on." Some social media users said she was right, but many criticised her as well. One user commented: "Have you even SEEN outside? We can't even breathe or open windows. It's THAT BAD. VISIBLE & invisible pollution are two different levels of devastation. If she's trying to make a good change, support." Another said: "Yes, why are they making the Metro and roads for better infrastructure of common people? They should send common people packing in overcrowded local trains, so rich people can enjoy their luxury drives." But most weren't as critical. Sharing Sonam's thoughts, one user commented: "Glad to see @sonamakapoor speak honestly. The city with the worst roads to add to the above. People of influence, please bring more attention to this topic." Sonam is all set for her next project, 'Blind', in which she is playing a visually challenged cop. The movie, directed by Shome Makhija, will also star Purab Kohli, Vinay Pathak and Lillete Dubey in prominent roles.

Ram Charan suffered second degree ligament tear before 'Naatu Naatu' shoot

'RRR' star Ram Charan, whose historical fiction film bagged two awards yet again at the Critics' Choice Awards on Monday, revealed that he had a second degree ligament tear before he shot for the Golden Globe winning song 'Naatu Naatu'. Sharing his experience whilst filming for the song in Ukraine, Ram stated: "I had an injury on the set, off the camera. I had a ligament tear, my ACL tore. It was a second degree tear. I was off the set for three months." He further told Gold Derby: "I was doing rehab, getting ready, and right after I came back we went straight to Ukraine to shoot the 'Naatu Naatu' song. I was scared to death whether I could pull it off." In relation to the script of RRR he said: "I felt the sense of a roller coaster ride and different genres coming together. It was action, it was drama, it was a bit of thriller and musical. It was so difficult for him to bring so many genres together and make it convincing and hit it out of the park like this." He also said that he is a big admirer of Hollywood stars Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise. "I never missed any Brad and Tom films," he admitted. "They were somebody I looked up to



when I was young. Seeing them again in 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' and 'Top Gun: Maverick,' man, they don't age. They are the same. Tom, for 38 years he looks the same and he's only getting better and keeping us so close to him as fans."

Vijay Sethupathi says Hindi audience doesn't take him seriously

Tamil superstar Vijay Sethupathi, who will be soon seen essaying the role of a cop in the upcoming streaming series 'Farzi', took a dig at the Hindi-language audience, saying he isn't taken seriously until he works with the big talents of the Hindi film industry. The actor, who has cultivated a new fan base and audience, courtesy of OTT and his films such as 'Super Deluxe', 'Vikram Vedha', '96' or the more recent 'Vikram', is working with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan in the Atlee Kumar's film 'Jawaan' and with Katrina Kaif in 'Merry Christmas'. Taking a subtle dig, the actor said, "Whoever asks me that I am doing a Hindi project, I have to say I am working with Shahid then only they say, 'oh wow, okay'." He added: "So, I have to say I am working with Shah Rukh sir, I am working with Katrina Kaif, then only they respect me. So, it depends on the artist who I'm working with." 'Farzi', which marks Vijay Sethupathi's foray into the streaming space, has been created and helmed by Raj & DK of 'The Family Man' fame. But Sethupathi refuses to call it a debut in streaming space. "I don't know how to say it's a debut because I don't see it as a debut. In 2010, I debuted as a hero. It's been 12 years. I did about 55 films. It's like I am going back as a kid again, so I don't think it's a debut," Sethupathi said.



Disha Thakur talks about playing Chandni in 'Main Monica'

Disha Thakur, who is known for "Three Auspicious Hours", "Out of Love", and "Evening Shadows", is currently part of the new web series "Main Monica". The actor, who will play the role of Chandni, feels her career is going through a great phase with "Main Monica" coming her way immediately after her last series "Garmi". Talking about working on the series, its title, and how she prepared for her role, she says: "This story is all about the excitement and fun that the characters in the show go



through. As far as the uniqueness of the title is concerned, Monica has a seductive and playful

sound to it and it gets even better when the character charmingly declares what becoming Monica is all about. "Explaining the kind of character Chandni is, Disha says that she fell in love with the name in the first place. "I loved how there are so many songs already dedicated to Chandni in Bollywood and somehow it just made Chandni more endearing to me. My character is a struggling actress in Mumbai, who dances at a bar to make ends meet. She comes from a village in Maharashtra but has made Mumbai her home." "Although she faces the

struggles of living in the city and making her dreams come true, there is a lot of grit and spunk in her. I relate to her spirit of not giving in to troubles. Her life takes a turn when she meets Rajveer and falls for him. I loved playing this role and it will always be super special to me," she said. About the kind of prep that went into playing this role, Disha adds: "Honestly, I came on board about two days before the shoot began, so I didn't have any time to prepare the way I would have wanted to. I did my own bit by first watching whatever movies I could.

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS: 1. Robbins and Allen, 5. Peak, 9. Make holy, 14. India's continent, 15. Earth's satellite, 16. Cowboys' contest, 17. Scrape roughly, 18. Between 40 and 60 (hyph.), 20. Buddy, 21. Departed, 22. Diner patrons, 23. Locale, 25. Reckless, 26. Parent's sister, 28. Weight, 29. English tavern, 32. House locations, 35. Middling (hyph.), 36. Reporter ____ Lane, 37. Discussion group, 39. Prayer response, 40. Quality of sound, 41. Butt in, 43. Association (abbr.), 44. ____ Carvey of "Wayne's World", 46. Level, 47. ____ pilot, 48. Insensitive, 51. Gasoline classification, 54. Quiet!, 57. Brief sleep, 58. Legislature, in Canada, 60. Flat bread, 61. Heroic tales, 62. Staff officer, 63. Tresses, 64. Rope loop, 65. Brace, 66. Roadhouses, 30. Customer, 31. Fido's treat, 32. Singing voice, 33. Entrance, 34. Holy person, 35. Less hazardous, 38. Allow, 42. Affluent, 44. Actress ____ Richards, 45. Between ports, 47. Bath powders, 49. Glossy fabric, 50. Practices boxing, 51. Unlatch, 52. Guitar device, 53. Threesome, 54. Will beneficiary, 55. Unfasten, 56. Stride, 59. Atlas entry, 60. Greek letter



Women's U-19 T20 World Cup

Shafali, Sehrawat's blitzkrieg help India crush UAE

Benoni (SA), Jan 16 (PTI):



Shweta Sehrawat celebrates her half-century with partner Richa Ghosh.

Skipper Shafali Verma cracked a blistering 78 while opener Shweta Sehrawat sparked with an unbeaten 74 as India outplayed UAE by 122 runs in the inaugural Women's U-19 T20 World Cup here on Monday.

Shafali (78 off 34 balls) was at her destructive best and joined forces with an equally belligerent Sehrawat (74 not out off 49 deliveries) before Richa Ghosh smacked a 29-ball 49 to help India post an imposing 219 for three at Willowmoore Park.

The Indian bowlers then restricted UAE to 97 for five, the result showing the gulf between the two sides. With the win, India have consolidated their top spot in Group D.

Invited to bat, Shafali, who has already played over 70 international matches for the senior team, including 51 T20Is, and Sehrawat, stitched a 111-run stand for the first wicket. Sehrawat made her intentions clear from the first over, and after playing two dots, she smacked three boundaries

to plunder 12 runs.

Shafali followed suit in the next over as she also hit three fours. The 18-year-old got the first maximum of the Indian in-

nings in the fifth over.

Shafali was the aggressor in the partnership as she toyed with the opposition, hitting boundaries at will. She brought up her

fifty in style with a four.

The UAE bowlers seemed clueless as Shafali sent the ball to the fence 12 times and over it four times in her fiery 34-ball innings. After hitting three sixes and a four in a span of five balls, Shafali's blazing knock came to an end as she was caught at long-off.

Sehrawat, who remained unbeaten on 92 in the previous game, played the role of sheet anchor to perfection. She brought up her second successive half-century and looked in complete control.

Misfields and dropped catches only compounded UAE's woes as they gave as many as four reprieves to Richa, who was promoted to number three.

Chasing a 200-plus target, UAE openers looked up to the challenge as Theertha Satish found the boundary four times in the first over.

However, the charge was shortlived as Shabnam MD dismissed her in the fifth ball. Fellow opener Lavanya Keny scored a painstakingly slow 54-ball 24 but UAE never seemed in contention.

Viacom 18 bags media rights for Women's IPL for 951 crore

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):



The BCCI on Monday announced that Viacom 18 have grabbed the media rights for the upcoming Women's IPL for a whopping Rs 951 crore for five years after pipping other bidders, including Disney Star and Sony, in a closed-bid auction.

The auction for the T20 league was conducted by the cricket board in Mumbai on Monday. The inaugural Women's IPL is likely to begin in the first week of March. Five teams will compete and all the matches will be held in Mumbai.

The global rights comprise three categories - linear (TV), digital and combined (TV and digital) and Viacom 18 successfully bid for the combined rights.

In the men's IPL, separate rights are sold across regions. "Women's cricket has been on the up since a few years and the recently concluded bilateral series against Australia is a great testament to how popular women's cricket has become in India," BCCI president Roger Binny said in a release issued by the board.

"It was only apt to get our own women's T20 league and give the fans more of women's cricket."

According to BCCI secretary Jay Shah, the fee per match will come to Rs 7.09 crore for the next five years. "The broadcasters play a key role in taking the game to a wider audience and their active interest in the league is a clear indication that the Women's Indian Premier League is headed in the right direction. The per-match valuation of Rs INR 7.09 crore is something that has never previously been registered for a women's game," Shah said.

"I congratulate Viacom18 for securing both the TV and digital rights with a

combined bid of INR 951 crores and welcome them on Board. The journey has well and truly started and we will take another major step this month when the five franchises are announced."

Viacom18 had won the IPL digital rights for Rs 23,758 crore while Disney Star had retained the TV rights for Rs 23,575 crore for a five-year period starting 2023 during a three-day auction held in June, 2022.

IPL governing council chairman Arun Singh Dhimal said: "The faith of all our bidders for this process also testifies that they see value in investing in this property which will only be growing with each

passing year. "Women's cricket has shown immense growth in the past few years and our own T20 league, it only solidifies our approach towards women's cricket and the potential it has for growth in India."

Some of the country's biggest stars in the women's game, such as national team skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and senior opener Smriti Mandhana, lauded the BCCI after the big announcement.

"Huge congratulations to Viacom18 and @BCCI, @JayShah for a historic day in women's cricket. Today marks a new era where our women cricketers will get the platform they deserve to thrive, excel and develop on the global stage. I'm sure you'll be mesmerized by the talent we have!" Harmanpreet tweeted.

Mandhana said, "Today's a day that every Indian women cricketer will remember. The #WIPL is finally taking shape. @BCCI, @JayShah and all those involved deserve huge praise. Women's cricket will go to the next level with this global stage provided. Come on girls, it's all yours for the taking!"

IPL disappointment last year behind my success in white-ball cricket in new year: Siraj

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 16 (PTI):



India pacer Mohammed Siraj has said the disappointment of not being able to perform in the previous edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) pushed him to focus more on white-ball cricket, which is paying rich dividends now.

The 28-year-old bowler returned with superb figures of 4 for 32 from his 10 overs to bundle out Sri Lanka for 73 in 22 overs as India won the match by a massive 317 runs here on Sunday.

Siraj, who was retained by Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) ahead of the 2022 season, had only nine wickets in 15 matches with an economy of more than 10 runs per over. Siraj said the transformation has come about because he started focussing on the execution of line and length in white-ball cricket following the 2022 IPL disap-

pointment.

"When the IPL season went bad for me, I started focussing on white-ball cricket. I worked on it and grew in confidence. I stopped worrying about how my performance would go which was not the case earlier. I started focussing only on execution of line and length."

Kohli credits throwdown specialists for making 'big difference' to his batting

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 16 (PTI):



Indian run-machine Virat Kohli has credited the team's throwdown trio of D Raghvendra, Nuwan Senewiratne and Dayanand Garani for making a "big difference" to his batting.

The throwdown specialists use a sidearm, a cricketing equipment in the shape of a long spoon, to hurl the ball at high speed (in the range of 140-150kmph) to test the batters at nets.

"All three of them have given us world-class practice every time we play. They challenge us in the nets like any 145 or 150kmph pace bowlers. They always try to get us out and make sure that they test us regularly," Kohli told young Indian opener Shubman Gill in an interaction on BCCI.tv after the third and final ODI against Sri Lanka here.

"At times, it feels very intense. For me that has been the difference in my career, to be very honest... From where I was as a cricketer before I started

getting this kind of practice to where I am today."

Karnataka's Raghvendra, who is fondly known as 'Raghu' joined the BCCI from the

National Cricket Academy, and was the first to join Team India. He would regularly give throwdowns to batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar and former

Indian captain MS Dhoni. India then hired left-handed Sri Lankan Senewiratne in 2018 to help them prepare for left-arm pacers.

A civic volunteer in Kolkata Police, Dayanand, who was with Kings XI Punjab, was roped in by Team India after Raghu tested positive for COVID-19 in 2020 and has become a permanent support staff since then.

"A lot of credit has to go to these guys, who have given us practice regularly and their contribution has been unbelievable. You guys should remember their names and faces because, behind our success, a lot of effort has been put in by these guys," Kohli said. Gill, who was interviewing Kohli, was quick to add: "These three combined would have had 1200 to 1500 wickets. They prepare us for all kinds of conditions heading into the match."

India thrashed Sri Lanka by 317 runs in the final ODI to sweep the series 3-0, with Kohli notching two hundreds from three matches.

Nadal struggles at times during 4-set win at Australian Open

Melbourne, Jan 16 (AP):



Rafael Nadal never truly seemed in danger of becoming the first Australian Open defending men's champion to lose in the first round since his current coach, Carlos Moya, managed to beat Boris Becker a quarter of a century ago. Still, this was not a vintage performance by Nadal, who came into Monday's matchup of left-handers against 21-year-old Jack Draper with an 0-2 record in 2023 and six losses in his past seven outings overall. After nearly two hours of so-so play, Nadal found himself even at a set apiece. He appeared to be pulling away, taking advantage of his opponent's bout with cramps on an afternoon with the temperature at about 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 Celsius), when suddenly Draper went up by a break in the fourth set. From there, though, Nadal would not drop another game, beginning his pursuit of a record-extending 23rd Grand Slam championship with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 victory that took more than 3 1/2 hours in Rod Laver Arena. Nadal was not in peak form. All in all, it was a bit of a struggle. He tried to put a silver-lining spin on things, nonetheless. "If we put in perspective all the situation that I

went through the last six months," the 36-year-old from Spain said, "I think it was a very positive start." Americans Jessica Pegula, Coco Gauff and Danielle Collins, the 2022 runner-up at Melbourne Park, all reached the second round in the women's bracket with victories earlier Monday. The biggest surprise of the day was the withdrawal of Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios, who needs surgery on his left knee.

Sindhu, Sen among title contenders at India Open

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):



The country's top shuttlers, including reigning champion Lakshya Sen and double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, will look to keep their date with destiny as they will be title contenders in at least three of the five events when the India Open Super 750 begins here on Tuesday.

Indian badminton never had this good with as many as three players - Sindhu (7), Sen (10), HS Prannoy (8) in singles world's top 10 and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty at world No. 5 - all coming into the season with loads of success last year.

While seventh seed Sen and Satwik-Chirag, seeded fifth, are entering the USD 900,000 event as defending champions, Sindhu and world No. 13 Kidambi Srikanth are also former champions.

Indian badminton players Lakshya Sen and PV Sindhu with Spanish badminton player Carolina Marin and Indonesian badminton player Anthony Sinisuka Ginting during a press conference for the India Open Badminton in New Delhi, Monday, Jan. 16.

However, the past results will count for little as all the big stars of world badminton will be pitted against each other - some of them in the opening round itself - during the upgraded version of India's flagship event.

Sen and Prannoy, two most prominent figures of Indian men's singles in 2022, will engage in yet another slugfest in the opening round with the

younger of the two hoping to return the favour this time after last week's opening round reversal in Kuala Lumpur.

Sindhu's return after a long injury lay-off at the Malaysia Open was spoiled by long-time nemesis Spain's Carolina Marin, who herself is on a comeback trail having sustained two ACL injuries in both her knees in the last few years.

Healy predicts India to win Border-Gavaskar trophy 2-1

Melbourne, Jan 16 (PTI):



Former wicketkeeper-batter Ian Healy has predicted a 2-1 win for India in the four-Test series against Australia beginning at Nagpur on February 9, provided the hosts don't prepare "unreasonable wickets".

The two sides will play four Tests for the Border-Gavaskar trophy with the series extremely crucial for India, as the World Test Championship (WTC) final spot is at stake.

"They've (India) got a good team but I'm not too scared of their spinners unless they produce unreasonable wickets," Healy was quoted as saying by SEN on Monday.

"If they produce unreasonable wickets like they did half the series last time (we won't win), two wickets were just terrible, unfair, spinners jumping over your head on day one.

"So that type of thing they will play better on than we will, but if they get flat wickets that India used

to put out, nice flat batting wickets and bowlers have to work really hard, I think we can do it. But (my prediction is) 2-1 India, if (Mitchell) Starc's unavailable in the first Test," added Healy.

The Australian pace-bowling stalwart will likely miss the first Test against India due to a finger injury to his bowling hand, which he sustained during the second Test against South Africa recently. "My worry for him (Starc) not playing the first Test is that you don't have a lot of time to get the bowling in that you're going to need in the second, third and fourth Test," opined Healy.

Barcelona wins Super Cup for 1st trophy with Xavi

Madrid, Jan 16 (AP):



Barcelona's title drought with coach Xavi and without Lionel Messi is finally over. Barcelona beat Real Madrid 3-1 on Sunday to win the Spanish Super Cup at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and give its fans reasons to celebrate again after a re-vamping process that began following Messi's departure for Paris Saint-Germain and the arrival of former player Xavi as coach in 2021.

"We've been through some tough years, with financial difficulties, Messi's departure," Xavi said. "It was not easy to bring back a positive dynamic. This will help give us some tranquility. We've been working hard from the beginning despite all the criticism, and we have to keep working."

Barcelona had not lifted a trophy since the 2021 Copa del Rey under former coach Ronald Koeman. That was Messi's 35th and final title with Barcelona before leav-

ing amid the club's financial struggles. Robert Lewandowski, Gavi and Pedri scored a goal each in the final at King Fahd Stadium to give Barcelona its first Super Cup trophy since 2018 and its 14th overall and the first since the tournament began being played in a Final Four format in 2020 in a lucrative deal for the Spanish soccer federation. Gavi opened the scoring in the 33rd minute from close range after a pass by Lewandowski, who doubled the lead after an as-

ist by Gavi in a breakaway just before the end of the first half. Gavi also set up Pedri's close-range goal in another breakaway in the 69th. Karim Benzema scored for Madrid late in stoppage time. "We knew we couldn't miss this opportunity," Barcelona captain Sergio Busquets said. "We've been going through changes at the club and I think this triumph will make us stronger and allow us to keep competing, keep growing and keep fighting for titles."

PM Modi holds roadshow as BJP national executive begins

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

Enthusiastic BJP workers and supporters lined the roads to greet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his roadshow here as the party's two-day national executive began in Delhi on Monday.

In an atmosphere enlivened by music and the cheering crowd, the roadshow started from Patel Chowk and continued till the NDMC convention centre. People showered Modi with flower petals and chanted slogans in his support.

Huge cutouts of the prime minister were placed along the road, besides several posters highlighting various initiatives of the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at supporters during a roadshow, in New Delhi, Monday.

government and also India's presidency of the G20.

Stages had been erected

at places. Folk artists from several states performed on some of them, while others blared patriotic songs.

BJP president J P Nadda welcomed Modi at the venue of the party's meeting, which started upon the

prime minister's arrival.

While Modi has been holding roadshows frequently, it is not very often that he does it ahead of the party's executive meet, which has been organised several times in the national capital now.

BJP leaders noted that Modi had held a roadshow ahead of the party's national executive in Odisha, and added that the exercise proved to be helpful in galvanising cadre and supporters.

With Lok Sabha polls due in the first half of next year, the enthusiastic roadshow will also help energise the party's Delhi unit after its loss to the Aam Aadmi Party in the recent municipal polls, they said.

SC grants Centre four weeks to respond to plea against age restriction for conducting pre-natal diagnostic tests

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday granted the Centre four weeks to file its response to a plea on the age restriction of 35 years on women for conducting pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic tests.

The matter came up for hearing before a bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka.

The counsel appearing for the Centre requested for some time to file the response confined to the aspect on which the court had issued notice on October 17 last year.

"Counsel for the respondent seeks time to

file counter affidavit... needful be done within four weeks," the bench said, adding that rejoinder, if any, be filed within two weeks thereafter.

The top court posted the plea, filed by advocate Meera Kaura Patel, for hearing after eight weeks.

In its October 17, 2022 order, the bench had noted the petitioner had referred to section 4(3)(i) of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 to contend that the age limit of 35 years is a restriction on the reproductive rights of

women. As per the provision of the Act, no pre-natal diagnostic techniques shall be used or conducted on a pregnant woman below 35 years of age.

In a significant ruling on reproductive rights of women, the apex court had earlier held that all women are entitled to safe and legal abortion till 24 weeks of pregnancy under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, and making any distinction on the basis of their marital status is "constitutionally unsustainable".

Punjab CM should not be under anyone's remote control: Rahul Gandhi

Hoshiarpur (Pb), Jan 16 (PTI):

In a swipe at Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said he should not be under anyone's remote control and should run the state independently.

Punjab should be run from Punjab. It should not be run from Delhi, said Gandhi while addressing a gathering here during his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"I want to ask Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann that you are the chief minister of Punjab, Punjab should be run from Punjab only. Bhagwant Mann should not come under pressure of (Arvind) Kejriwal ji and Delhi.

"You should work independently and should not be under the remote control of anyone," said Gandhi.

Bhagwant Mann has been facing criticism from the opposition parties which allege that all major decisions of his government are being taken in Delhi by AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Gandhi said the Yatra was getting an overwhelming response and targeted the BJP government at the Centre.

Hatred and fear are being spread in the country and "brother is being pitted against brother", he alleged.

He also attacked the BJP government over the issue of unemployment and inflation. He again said that the Yatra was opening the shops of love in the market of hatred.

Shivpal in line for 'big responsibility' after meeting with SP chief Akhilesh

Lucknow, Jan 16 (PTI):

Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav on Monday met uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav at his residence amid speculation that the Jaswantnagar MLA would be given major responsibility in the party.

Akhilesh Yadav reached Shivpal Yadav's residence at Vikramaditya Marg where he is said to have discussed strengthening of the party's organisation.

"Akhileshji met Shivpalji at his residence in the evening. I don't know about the discussions between them. This

is a matter of the family," Rajendra Chowdhury, the Samajwadi Party's chief spokesperson, told PTI.

When asked if Shivpal Yadav would be given a major responsibility in the party, Chowdhury said, "Yes. Shivpalji will be given a big responsibility."

He said the constitution of the party's national and state executives would be done soon, maybe this month. Akhilesh Yadav dissolved all party units, only retaining state unit chief Naresh Uttam, last July.

Once estranged, the uncle-nephew duo came together during the Mainpuri bypoll follow-

Suspended Cong MLA Rajesh Kachchap seeks 2 weeks to appear before ED

Ranchi, Jan 16 (PTI):

Suspended Congress MLA in Jharkhand Rajesh Kachchap, who is under investigation in a cash haul case, on Monday sought two weeks' time for appearing before the Enforcement Directorate (ED), citing pre-scheduled engagements.

On January 13, another suspended Congress MLA Irfan Ansari had also sought time for two weeks from the central agency on health grounds.

Kachchap was summoned by the agency in connection with cash recovery from a car in which he was travelling

along with party MLAs from the Jharkhand unit of the Congress, Irfan Ansari and Naman Bixal, an official said. The three MLAs were arrested by the West Bengal Police after Rs 49 lakh in cash was recovered from their vehicle in Howrah district in July last year.

Speaking to PTI over the phone, Kachchap said, "I am in Delhi now for a pre-scheduled programme. Our advocate Chandra Bhanu Singh, who is looking after the case of all three MLAs, visited the ED office today and pleaded for some more time."

The MLA said he has re-

quested the central agency for a date after January 26. On December 24, the ED questioned Congress MLA Kumar Jaimangal Singh alias Anup Singh for over nine hours in connection with the case.

Singh had lodged a complaint with Ranchi's Argora police station, alleging that the three MLAs had offered him Rs 10 crore and a ministerial berth for toppling the JMM-led Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand. Singh had claimed that he was not summoned as an accused but as a complainant in the case.

'Sonia initially struggled to learn Indian traditions, disliked politics'

Bengaluru, Jan 16 (PTI):

Italy-born Sonia Gandhi initially struggled to learn Indian traditions and disliked politics, her daughter and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said on Monday.

Addressing a women-centric convention organised here by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee in the poll-bound State, the Congress leader said she was brought up by two brave and strong women - her grandmother Indira Gandhi and mother Sonia Gandhi.

She recalled that she was eight-years-old when Indira Gandhi lost her 33-year-old son. But the very



AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi speaks during her 'Na Nayaki' convention at Palace Grounds, in Bengaluru, Monday.

next day of Sanjay Gandhi's death, she went to work to serve the nation and that was the sense of duty and her "inner shakti". Indira Gandhi continued to serve the nation until she died.

Priyanka Gandhi said

Sonia Gandhi fell in love with Rajiv Gandhi at the age of 21.

"She (Sonia) came all the way from Italy to India to get married to him. She struggled to learn our traditions. She learnt the ways of India. She im-

bibed everything from Indira and at the age of 44, she lost her husband.

Even though she disliked politics, she took the path to serving the nation and she served it all her life till today when she is 76 years old," Priyanka Gandhi said.

Priyanka said she had learnt a "very important thing" from Indira Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and hundreds of ordinary women who struggle everyday in life.

"No matter what happens to you in your life, no matter how big a tragedy you face, how deep your struggles are... whether at home or work or outside, you have the capacity to stand up and fight for yourself," Priyanka said.

'MAGH MELA'



A devotee prepares tea during the annual 'Magh Mela', in Prayagraj, Monday.

EOW files supplementary charge sheet in Rs 200 Cr extortion case involving Sukesh Chandrasekhar

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

The Delhi Police on Monday filed a supplementary charge sheet in connection with the Rs 200 crore extortion case involving alleged fraudster Sukesh Chandrasekhar.

Chandrasekhar has been accused of impersonating top government officials in order to extort about Rs 200 crore from Aditi Singh, the wife of Shivinder Mohan Singh, the former owner of pharma major Ranbaxy. The alleged conman was claimed to have scammed Aditi Singh with the promise of securing the release of her husband who was in jail in a money laundering case.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi police claimed in the charge sheet that Mumbai-based Pinky Irani, a close aide to

Chandrasekhar, introduced him to Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez. Fernandez, not named as an accused in the main case, also appeared before the court. She is an accused in the money laundering probe related to the alleged scam.

The fresh supplementary charge sheet, filed before Additional Sessions Judge Shailendra Malik, also said police have recorded the statements of several people including those of Bollywood actors Fernandez and Nora Fatehi. The court is likely to decide on whether to take cognizance of the charge sheet on Tuesday.

Opposition parties question need for remote voting machines

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

Opposition parties on Monday questioned the need to deploy remote voting machines and urged the Election Commission to address the issue of urban apathy towards the poll process.

"No opposition party wants to see the demonstration of a remote voting machine (RVM). First the issue of the need to have such a machine should be settled," senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh told reporters after participating in a meeting of political parties convened by the Election Commission (EC) for the demonstration of the workings of an

RVM. The former Madhya Pradesh chief minister said he felt that there would be no RVM demonstration till there is a consensus on having one. No political party is prepared to see the demonstration, he said. "The idea of RVM is not acceptable," Singh said and added that the commission should address concerns about electronic voting machines raised by eminent citizens of the country. The EC should also address the issue of urban apathy towards the election process, the Congress leader said. The poll panel had invited representatives of eight national and 57 recognised state parties for an RVM

demonstration here. The commission has maintained that RVMs, developed by public sector undertaking Electronics Corporation of India, will be a stand alone device not connected to the internet in any way. The initiative, if implemented, can lead to a "social transformation" for migrants, the EC had said last month.

Each machine can handle up to 72 constituencies, allowing migrant voters to cast their votes from a remote polling booth. Parties were also asked to give in writing their views by the end of January on issues such as changes required in the law to allow the use of RVMs.

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BRIEF



Rescue operation underway after a truck fell into the Kamla river after a portion of a bridge over the river collapsed, in Darbhanga district, Monday.

Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi: There will be no tour of Rashtrapati Bhavan for the general public from January 25 to 29 due to the Republic Day Parade and Beating the Retreat ceremony, according to an official statement issued on Monday. "Tour of Rashtrapati Bhavan for the general public will remain closed from January 25 to 29, 2023, due to Republic Day Parade and Beating the Retreat Ceremony," the president's office said in the statement.

Throat slit

Thane: A 47-year-old man died after a kite string got entangled around his neck and slit his throat while he was riding his two-wheeler in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Monday. An offence under section 304A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered for the accident that took place in Bhiwandi city on Sunday night, senior inspector C K Kakade said.

LeT chargesheeted

Jammu: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives were on Monday chargesheeted in a case related to grenade attack on a house in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir in 2021, resulting in the killing of a minor boy and injuries to several others, an official said. The chargesheet against the arrested accused, Altaf Hussain Shah of Dral village (Rajouri) and his Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)-based associate Mohd Qasim alias Suleiman, was filed before the court of third additional sessions judge, Jammu, he said.

Activist killed

New Delhi: The Vishva Hindu Parishad has claimed that the recent murder of a 16-year-old Bajrang Dal activist in Assam's Karimganj district was carried out by 'jihadis'. Sambhu Koiri was killed in Lowairpua area, about 50 km from Karimganj town, under Bazaricherra Police Station on January 7. Koiri was returning to Karimganj district after attending a three-day training camp of the Bajrang Dal in neighbouring Hailakandi district.

Weather
High 28 Low 14

MARKET
NIFTY 17,394.85
SENSEX 60,092.97

BULLION
GOLD 56,701
SILVER 70,054

COLLEGIUM REJIG

Rijiju suggests restructuring of MoP

■ **Oppn hits out**

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD)

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has written to the Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud for the inclusion of government nominees in the collegium system on appointments to the higher judiciary and defended it as a "precise follow-up action" suggested by the apex court while striking down the NJAC Act.

Rijiju's early January letter to the CJI and the remarks on Monday come amid a tug-of-war between the government and the judiciary over the process of appointments of judges to the Supreme Court and high courts.

Besides several Union ministers, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has slammed the 2015 scrapping of the National



Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) by the apex court and claimed that the judiciary was encroaching on the domain of the legislature. The Opposition, however, hit out at the move, with Congress leader Jairam Ramesh saying that while reforms were needed, the government's remedy was a "poison pill" for the independent judiciary. It also alleged that it was an "orchestrated confrontation" by the government to "capture" the judiciary.

Officials said the Law Minister has sought the setting up of a "search and evaluation committee" with representation from the central and the state governments in the selection of judges for the Supreme Court and the High Courts respectively. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal dubbed the government's move as "extremely dangerous".

"There should be absolutely no government interference in judicial appointments," Kejriwal said on Twitter.

Reacting to Delhi chief minister's remarks, Rijiju said the move is in line with the direction of the Constitution Bench to restructure the MoP (Memorandum of Procedure) of the collegium system.

"I hope you honour Court's direction! This is precise follow-up action of

the direction of the Supreme Court Constitution Bench while striking down the National Judicial Appointment Commission Act. The SC Constitution Bench had directed to restructure the MoP (Memorandum of Procedure) of the collegium system," the minister said on Twitter.

"The contents in the letter to hon'ble CJI are exactly in conformity with the observations and directions of the Supreme Court Constitution Bench. Convenient politics is not advisable, especially in the name of Judiciary. Constitution of India is supreme and nobody is above it," Rijiju said.

In November, Rijiju had said that the collegium system of making judicial appointments was "alien" to the Constitution.

SC declines to hear plea on Joshimath crisis

'HC should handle it as matter of principle'

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD)

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking the court's intervention to declare the crisis in Uttarakhand's subsidence-hit Joshimath a national disaster, saying since the state high court is seized of a "broad range of issues" it should hear it as a matter of principle.

As the lawyer for the petitioner submitted that people in Joshimath are dying, the top court told him curtly, "You don't want to use these proceedings for sound bytes in social media."

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala asked petition-



A resident of an area affected by the land subsidence reacts, in Joshimath, Monday.

er Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati to approach the Uttarakhand High Court with his petition.

"As a matter of principle, we should allow the High Court to deal with this. High Court is seized of a broad range of issues, we'll give you liberty to approach the High Court.

"The specific aspects which have been high-

lighted in these proceedings can be addressed before the high court for suitable redressal. We accordingly permit the petitioners either to institute a substantive petition before the high court so that it can be together with pending proceedings or intervene in the pending matter. The high court is requested to consider the grievance," the bench said.

The counsel for the Uttarakhand government submitted all the points raised by the petitioner have already been acted upon. Senior advocate Sushil Kumar Jain, appearing for the petitioner, said people are dying and urgent steps are needed for relief and rehabilitation of those affected by ground subsidence.

Centre to states

'Ensure sufficient number of IAS officers before forwarding foreign study leave proposal'

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD)

The Centre on Monday rationalised the process of granting approval for study leave for abroad to IAS officers and asked the states to ensure availability of sufficient number of bureaucrats both in the cadre and on central deputation before forwarding such proposals.

Prior permission of the central government is mandatory for ex-India study leave for Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers by the state government concerned.

"In this context, it is felt necessary that a holistic appreciation of impact of such long study leave on

the overall cadre management both at the state as well as the central government level is needed before a well informed decision is taken both by the state while recommending and for Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to provide its approval," an official order said.

With this objective, it is felt necessary that while recommending ex-India study leave in respect of IAS officers, the requests of study leave/ex-India leave/extension to study leave may be considered in the light of availability of sufficient number of IAS officers in the cadre and for central deputation against the prescribed

norms of central deputation reserve, it said.

This would ensure that the functioning of the state and central government is not affected due to shortage of officers, said the order issued to chief secretaries of all state governments.

Accordingly, it is requested that while recommending the proposals of study leave abroad, the state governments should submit the details of IAS officers who have returned from such leaves during the last two years and the posting(s) given to them according to the practical knowledge and experience acquired during study leave.

Delivery agent chased by dog jumps off building, dies

Hyderabad, Jan 16 (PTD)

A food delivery executive, who had suffered critical injuries after jumping off the third floor of an apartment building here out of fear of being attacked by a chasing pet dog of a customer, succumbed at a hospital here, police said on Monday. The 23-year-old man sustained head injuries and was hospitalised following the incident on January 11 died on Saturday, even as the dog's owner has been booked on charge of causing death by negligence, the police said. The man, working with a food ordering and delivery platform, had gone to deliver a food parcel to the customer (dog's owner) at the apartment and the dog lunged at the door after it was opened.

Tribal outfit to start month-long yatra from Jan 17 to save' Parasnath hills

Jamshedpur, Jan 16 (PTD):

Tribal outfit Adivasi Sengel Abhiyan (ASA) announced it will kick off a month-long yatra from Tuesday to "free" the 'Marang Buru' (Parasnath hills) in Jharkhand from the "clutches" of the Jain community.

ASA activists headed by its president and former MP, Salkhan Murmu, will stage demonstrations in tribal-dominated 50 districts in Assam, Bihar, Odisha West Bengal and Jharkhand, a senior ASA functionary said.

"The Marang Buru Bachao Yatra will cover all tribal-dominated districts of the country before end-

ing in the last week of February," the ASA president said. On January 14, the ASA president wrote a letter to President Droupadi Murmu appealing to her to restore the sanctity of the place and hand over Parasnath hills to the tribals. Accusing the Jharkhand government of handing over Marang Buru to the Jain community, the former MP said the government has betrayed the tribals.

The ASA will organise a 'Marang Buru-Sarna Mahadharna' besides Rashtriya Adivasi Ekta Mahasabha in Ranchi on February 14.

Jains across the country have been demanding the

scrapping of a 2019 Jharkhand government notification designating Parasnath hills as a tourist place, fearing this would lead to an influx of tourists who may consume non-vegetarian food and liquor at their holy site. Even as the Centre stayed the Jharkhand government's move to promote tourism at the Parasnath hills after protests by Jains, tribals jumped into the fray staking a claim to the land and asking for it to be freed.

The Santhal tribe has a sizeable population in Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Assam and West Bengal and are nature worshippers.

Woman hit and drag case

Police tell court they will invoke murder charge against accused

New Delhi, Dec 16 (PTD)

A Delhi sessions court was told on Monday the police will invoke section 302 of the IPC related to murder in the hit and run case in which a 20-year-old woman was dragged to death while trapped under a car in the national capital.

An offence of murder may attract death penalty or imprisonment for life and fine.

Six of the seven accused in the case were initially charged under Section 304 related to culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The offence attracts

life imprisonment or imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 10 years, besides fine.

The court of Additional Sessions Judge Susheel Bala Dagar, meanwhile, reserved its order on the bail application of an accused Ashutosh Bhardwaj.

During the proceedings, Additional Public Prosecutor Atul Srivastava said police will invoke the provisions of section 302 in the case.

He said the actions of Bhardwaj in giving the car to a person not authorised to drive, withholding the information about the

crime and introducing the name of another co-accused as the driver was being investigated from the "conspiracy" perspective.

Bhardwaj's advocate had moved the sessions court after his bail plea was dismissed by a metropolitan magistrate on Thursday.

Police had arrested Deepak Khanna (26), Amit Khanna (26), Krishan (27), Mithun (25), and Manoj Mittal in the case on January 2. Later, they zeroed in on Ashutosh, who was arrested four days later. Another accused Ankush had surrendered on Friday and was released on bail the next day.

Ensure party does not lose any of 9 state polls in 2023: Nadda

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD)

BJP president J P Nadda on Monday underlined the importance of the nine state assembly polls to be held this year in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and asked the party's national executive to ensure it does not lose in any state. Briefing reporters on Nadda's address to the key BJP body, whose two-day meeting began here on Monday, party leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the party president noted that the ongoing year was very important in the prelude to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The ruling party has been putting in place a number of exercises to strengthen its organisation to ensure that it comes back to power in 2024 at the Centre for a third term.

Nadda, in his closed-door address, lauded India's progress under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government. It has become the world's fifth-largest econ-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with BJP National President J.P. Nadda arrives for the BJP National Executive meeting, at NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi, Monday.

omy, second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones, third-largest manufacturer in the auto sector while the highway being built every day has risen to 37 km from 12 km earlier, the party president said.

Agnipath transformative policy, game changer in making armed forces future-ready: PM

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated the first batch of Agniveers on being the pioneers of the Agnipath scheme, asserting that it is a transformative policy and a game changer in strengthening the armed forces and making them future-ready.

Virtually addressing the new recruits, he said this "path-breaking" scheme will further empower women.

According to an official statement, the prime minister said the young Agniveers will make the armed forces more youthful

and tech-savvy. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called the Agnipath scheme one of the "most important and unprecedented reforms" in the armed forces.

Addressing the Agniveers, the prime minister said technologically-advanced soldiers will play a "key role" in our armed forces, and added that the current generation of youth especially has this potential and Agniveers will play a leading role in the forces in the times to come. The prime minister said "new India" is filled with renewed vigour and efforts are underway to modernise the armed forces and make them 'aatmanirbhar'

(self-reliant). "In the 21st century, the way wars are fought is changing," he said, speaking about the new fronts of contactless warfare and challenges of cyber warfare.

Lauding the potential of Agniveers, he said their spirit is reflective of the bravery of the armed forces which has always kept the flag of the nation flying high. "The experience they will acquire through this opportunity will be a source of pride for life," he added. The prime minister concluded by saying that they are the ones who are going to provide leadership to the nation in the 21st century, the statement said

quoting Modi, who also added that the new recruitment scheme will further empower women.

The prime minister said he looks forward to seeing women Agniveers in all three forces, noting that they are leading armed forces on various fronts and cited examples of women posted in Siachen and driving modern fighter planes.

Defence Minister Singh said the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has taken a number of decisions to empower the nation, terming the Agnipath scheme as one of the "most important and unprecedented reforms", an official statement said.

Central Parliamentary Committee praises state govt for SC/ST welfare

Raipur, Jan 16:

The members of the Central Parliamentary Committee paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office today during his two-day visit to the state. The Committee, headed by Dr (Prof) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki appreciated the work being done by the State Government for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. They shared their experiences of Chhattisgarh visit with the Chief Minister and also appreciated the 'Prayas' schools.

The Chief Minister raised the demand for the return of the vacant land of mines in scheduled areas of the state to the state government and said that the state government wanted to do development work to promote



tourism activities by creating water bodies in these areas. He also demanded extension of rail line till Jagdalpur via Rawghat for smooth traffic in Bastar zone, amendment in provisions of Forest Act for carrying out development work in forest areas and re-starting of closed trains on Mumbai-Kolkata route. Secretary, Tribal Welfare Department, DD Singh was also present. The Central Parliamentary Committee has come to Raipur on a two-day visit

to study the social and educational status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh. Baghel informed the members of the Central Parliamentary Committee in detail about the steps being taken for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in Chhattisgarh. He said that apart from better facilities for education and health, efforts were being made to provide maximum employment opportunities in the

scheduled areas. The focus of the state government is on the fact that the schemes should bring positive changes in the social and economic condition of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and increase their income, he said.

About 44 percent of Chhattisgarh's land area is covered by forests and there are dense forests in these scheduled areas, due to which there is a problem in various development works, the Chief Minister said. Stating the need for amendment in the provisions of the Forest Act, Baghel urged the committee to initiate necessary amendments in the provisions of the Forest Act. During the meeting with the Chief Minister, Jagannath Sarkar, Neeraj Dangi, Dr V Shivdasan, Kamakhya Prasad, Virendra Kumar were also present.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION



With lack of parking the Sheetala Manta mandir area in capital city witnesses traffic-jam and congestion on daily basis.

BJP Co-op cell alleges massive irregularities in Sugar factory

Charges shortage of sugar worth Rs 12.36 cr due to negligence of officers and corruption; demands action against guilty officers

Raipur, Jan 16:

The State convener BJP's Co-op Cell Shashikant Dwivedi charged of shortage of sugar worth Rs 12.36 crore due to sheer negligence of the officers and rampant corruption in Maa Mahamaya Sahakari Shakkari Karkhana (MSSSK) in Gram Kerta of Surajpur district. He informed that in view of complaints related to regular shortage in the sugar stock in the factory, the Co-operative Ministry of the state government had formed investigation team many times and on which the Addl. Registrar and investigation officer Hq's HK Nagdev and Asst. Registrar and Asst. inves-



tigation officer Vikas Khanna were appointed to conduct investigation, but till date no action has been taken. BJP co-op cell demanded action against the guilty officers of the sugar factory at the earliest.

Addressing a press conference State convener BJP Co-op Cell (BJPCC) Shashikant Dwivedi informed that in compliance to the order issued, the investigation team submitted its report and there were surprising revelations in it. Dwivedi informed that many lacunae were found in the physical verification done in the godown of the Sugar factory. This include improper and non-scientific stacking of sugar bags in the

factory's godown. Finally it was based upon the reports. The MD of the factory and Godown in-charge informed that due to blasting near the sugar factory, a labourer died coming beneath the stacks of sugar bags and therefore the stacking has been done in another manner. On asking about stack-wise information and not making its display, the management of the Sugar Factory could not give any answer. In this way with unscientific stacking, not displaying stack-wise information and making tall stacks even after an accident of death were found to be correct. At the same time the logic given by the factory management did not ap-

peared to be appropriate and it was very much evident that to avoid proper count of sugar bags stacked, the factory management has done it in such a manner and this speaks of lackadaisical attitude of the factory management, he alleged.

Dwivedi further informed that in the factory's register on 28 April 2021, all of sudden an additional stock of 2320 MT of Molasses was shown and it is impossible to have such a stock on just one day. Whereas as per factory's document of 22 March 2021, it was shown that production of Molasses has been stopped. Therefore on the basis of documents of factory, the

quantity of recorded Molasis on physical verification was found to be 1641 MT higher. Dwivedi charged that there is huge difference in the report related to Molasses sent to the GoI and the information in the factory. In the same way the information about PP bags too is incorrect and this makes it aptly clear that there is massive irregularity and sheer negligence in the updation of documents and what is actually happening in the Sugar factory and due to which there is irregularity in the documents of gunny bags purchase.

Among others from BJP Co-op Cell Devji Bhai Patel, Somesh Pandey Media in-charge, Amarjeet Bakshi co-media in-charge, Social media in-charge Abhishek Tiwari, District convener (City) Neelam Singh, District convener (rural) Raipur-Shirish Tiwari and Vikas Agrawal and others were present.

CPC takes information about welfare works for SCs, STs

With management of CIL and SECL and employees' unions

Raipur, Jan 16:



The Central Parliamentary Committee (CPC) for Welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes held meeting with the SC, ST Employees' Association and the management of Coal India Limited (CIL) and South Eastern Coal Fields Limited (SECL) at Nava Raipur here on Monday. In the meeting held under the chairmanship of LS MP Dr (Prof) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki and the members of Central Parliamentary Committee held discussions on the measures for welfare and representation of SCs, STs with Association and management of both the

Companies. Member of CPC Jagannath Sarkar, Neeraj Dangi, Dr V Shivdasan, and Kamakhya P Tasa were also present in the discussions.

The management of CIL and SECL put forth their views on the interests and rights of both the communities and anticipated to take initiatives for their constitutional and judicial rights. Parliamentary Committee also took information about condition of work in both CIL and SECL, condition of payment to those working on contractual system, compassionate appointment, reservation in promotion

and filling up of vacant posts. The members of CPA also asked the companies to kindly consider the demands put forth by the Employees' Association before the management.

In this meeting with Central Parliamentary Committee, the Chairman CIL Pramod Agrawal, CMD SECL Dr PS Mishra, Economic Advisor of Coal Ministry HK Hajong, National President CISTA RP Khande, President of Company Council OP Navrang and office bearers of both the Employees' Unions and senior officers of both the company were present.

One nabbed with rifle and 26 live cartridges

On charges of firing shots in air on Sunday night in public place



Raipur, Jan 16:

A case of open air fire from capital city has come to fore and the accused was heard firing shots in the air on Sunday night and this created sensation in the region. On getting information the police reached the site and nabbed the accused and seized the rifle and live cartridges.

As per details, the accused is Umesh Singh, R/o New Rajendra Nagar and resides in Govind Sagar premises of capital city. He owns a rifle and fired few shots in the air in the morning hours.

On this, the residents nearby lodged complaint with the police and the police went to him and nabbed him. It is learnt that the accused is working as Supervisor in Mineral Department in Surguja

and he fired shots in the air at his residence in New Rajendra Nagar last night.

The police in its preliminary inquiry came to know that the licence of his rifle has expired few months back and still he was keeping the rifle and live cartridges with him. The police seized the rifle and live cartridges and filed case under Arms Act against him.

CSP Rajesh Choudhary informed that it was on tip from an informer on Sunday night they came to know that someone is firing rifle shots in the air and it was shot in public place in Govind Sarang premises.

Immediately after the complaint, the police reached the venue and found a Jharkhand pass vehicle in the premises and the person disclosed his name as Umesh Singh. He was owing a 315 bore rifle and accepted that he fired shots in the air.

The accused was issued notice on the spot and it was learnt that the licence of his rifle has expired in 31 Dec 2022 and this he gave in writing. On this the rifle and 26 live cartridges with the accused were seized and he was taken into arrest.

Arrangements to be made for safety of spectators at cricket stadium

Raipur, Jan 16:

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure along with SSP Prashant Agrawal reached the Shaheed Veerananarayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Nava Raipur and took stock of the arrangements for the first international cricket match.

Office bearers of Chhattisgarh Cricket Association discussed preparations with Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure and SSP Agrawal at the stadium. Resources available in the stadium and expected cooperation from the district administration, cleanliness of the stadium, repair of chairs, volunteers and security etc. were discussed. Ambulance with fire fighting and medical staff will be deployed at all the entry gates during the match.



A parking fee of Rs 10 for two-wheelers and Rs 30 for four-wheelers has been fixed in the parking lots set up by Gram Panchayats Parsada, Sendh and Nawagaon. The collector urged the audience to gather in the

stadium premises for good mobile connectivity. Instructions were given to the officers to ensure arrangements for temporary towers etc. of Jio and Airtel companies.

Dr Bhure also inspected the parking lots being con-



structed around the stadium and instructed the officials to make security arrangements with adequate lighting etc. at these places. He also gave instructions to the officials to put adequate number of Safai Mitras (sanitation

Collector-SSP review on-the-spot preparations for 1st ODI

workers) on duty make available other necessary machines and equipment for cleaning arrangements in the stadium premises. The Collector gave instructions to install clear signage etc. at various places for the convenience of the people coming from different routes in the stadium and the spectators in the stadium. The Collector instructed the officers to ensure bio-toilets as well as emergency medical arrangements etc.

Illicit liquor worth Rs 10 lakh seized

Stored in 'Gautia' Dabha in Mahasamund



Mahasamund, Jan 16:

The Mahasamund police got a major breakthrough in their drive against checking sale of illicit liquor and its smuggling from one state to another. As per information, a total of 170 cartons of quarter bottles of Goa Special Whiskey was seized from three ac-

cusced have stored liquor in a dabha for sale and on this they conducted raid. They nabbed three accused viz. Lalchand Manjhi, S/o Jawala Manjhi, (29), Gram Kutela, Saraipali, Mahasamund; Ajit Patel S/o Mukteshwar Patel (34), R/o Gram Kutela Mahasamund and Amit Patel, S/o Mukteshwar Patel, R/o Kutela Saraipali, Mahasamund. The police seized total of 170 cartons with 48 pieces of English Goa Whiskey and each bottle contained 180 ml of liquor and in this way the total quantity came to 1500 lts and the total amount resulting in around Rs 10.0 lakh.

As per reports the police got tip from an informer that three ac-

Placement camp on 18th

Raipur, Jan 16: District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center Raipur is organizing a placement camp on January 18 from 11 am to 2 pm at District Employment Office, Old Police Headquarters Complex, Raipur to provide employment to local educated unemployed youth. Zenix Job and Consultancy, Rapido and Arohan Financial Services Raipur will recruit candidates with qualification of Class 10th, Class 12th and Graduation (with knowledge of computer and accountancy) on more than 139 posts of telly caller, MIS Executive, Accountant, Computer Operator, Back Office, Godown Incharge, Front Office and SAP Operator, Customer Service Representative and Bike Rider. Salary ranging from Rs 10000 to Rs 20000 will be given for all these posts.

Applications received in 'Jan Choupal' be resolved at earliest: Collector



Raipur, Jan 16:

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure today heard more than 40 applications related to the public grievances and demands at 'Jan Choupal'. The Collector di-

rected the concerned officers to dispose of the applications received in Jan Choupal within the time limit. He instructed to ensure timely implementation of all the government schemes for the common people.



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Vehicle parking zone to be created beneath flyovers on NH

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas inspected Supela Square on Monday to take stock of the work being done by the National Highway and Public Works Department.

Officers of the National Highway, Bhilai Municipal Corporation and the office bearers of the Market Association accompanied him during the visit. He took information about the works of the National Highway from the officials.

The Commissioner said that the works being done on the National Highway should be done expeditiously. He instructed the officials to increase the resources and conduct the tasks that can be done parallel.

The Commissioner said



that the parking space is very important as it will give a lot of relief from the traffic pressure. He also instructed for patch repair work, asphaltting, installation of lights on the National Highway and removal of debris to make the road dust free.

Instructions were given

to the officers to do landscaping work also. He added that the construction of the drain should be done in a safe manner. National Highway officials stated that the work for parking will be done soon and the preparations will be completed soon at some places.

The Commissioner said

that considering all aspects, construction and other development works should be done with quality and as soon as possible. He asked the NH officers that it is very necessary to make the roads dust free. Hence they must conduct patch repair work and construction of parking space

on priority basis.

Instructing the BMC officials, the Commissioner said that the campaign against illegal hoardings and posters should continue. According to the list received from the Market Association, he also gave instructions to run a special campaign with businessmen in the market areas.

A d d i t i o n a l Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi, Superintending Engineer Deepak Joshi, Zone Commissioner Rajendra Nayak, Executive Engineer Sanjay Sharma, Assistant Engineers Alok Pasine and Vinita Verma, Deputy Engineer Arpit Banjare and Market Association office bearers and Deputy Engineer National Highway Abhijeet Soni were present during the inspection.

Two held for stealing car and other items from a house



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Police have arrested two ruffians on charges of stealing a car and other household items from a house in Titurdeeh. CSP Banker Vaibhav Ramanlal (IPS) informed that they had received a complaint from one Dinesh Bhakre of Titurdeeh regarding theft of a Maruti S-Presso Car

and other household items from his house.

Police conducted investigations and soon two suspects were taken into custody. During interrogation, they confessed to have committed the crime. The accused were taking the car to Orissa to sell it but the vehicle broke down on the way. The accused had left the broken vehicle at Bodam area of Orissa.

Police have recovered the stolen vehicle and the stolen household items. The accused identified as Akash Yadav (22) son of Ravikant Yadav a resident of Scindia Nagar, Durg and Ajay Kumar Gada (20) son of Prakash Kumar Gada a resident of New Adarsh Nagar have been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 457, 380, 34 of IPC.

MLA Devendra Yadav's mother walks with Rahul Gandhi

Participates in Bharat Jodo Yatra in Adampur, Punjab

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Former National President of Congress Rahul Gandhi is travelling across the country to unite the entire nation. Bharat Jodo Yatra is presently passing through Punjab. Pushpa Yadav, mother of Bhilai Nagar Congress MLA Devendra Yadav has also reached Punjab to participate in the yatra.

On Monday, 73-year-old Pushpa Yadav walked with Rahul Gandhi. To participate in the yatra, she specially reached Adampur in Punjab from Bhilai. Even at this age, she walked a long distance with Rahul Gandhi.

It needs to be mentioned here that Bhilai MLA Devendra Yadav played a vital role in Rahul



Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. More than 500 youths from Devendra Yadav's team from Bhilai and other cities of Chhattisgarh have participated in the Yatra.

They are handling different responsibilities in the Yatra. Participation of Bhilai MLA's mother Pushpa Yadav in the yatra

Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

A large number of Congress leaders and workers of Chhattisgarh are also participating in this yatra. Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav was also made in-charge of the Bharat Jodo Yatra programs in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. After this, now other responsibilities of the trip were also handed over to him.

Youth Congress and NSUI leaders of Bhilai are participating in large numbers in Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. To join the yatra, the youth leaders did the practice of walking in the month of December. They walk for 5 to 12 kms daily, so that they can walk with Rahul Gandhi in Bharat Jodo Yatra.

remained the topic of discussion in Chhattisgarh on Monday. Her photo is also going viral on social media.

It could be recollected here that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Padayatra, which started from Kerala, is now in Punjab after crossing different cities of Karnataka, Maharashtra,

Sports festival organised at Rawatpura Sarkar International School Kumhari

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Like every year, the Annual Sports Festival was organised at Shri Rawatpura Sarkar International School Kumhari. The Annual Sports Festival was organized on January 12-13, 2023.

Vice President Dr JK Upadhyay was present as chief guest. The sports festival was inaugurated with the lighting the lamp by the chief guest. Thereafter, Dr JK Upadhyay extended best wishes to the children for the upcoming sports competitions.

The theme of the sports festival this year was based on athletic sports which included sports like 100m, 200m, 400m race, shotput, javelin throw, long jump, relay-race, tug of war, slow cycling race etc. Children of all the houses of the school took an active part and en-



joyed the games to the fullest and the guests present on the march past were saluted by all the houses children and also the sports meet was flagged off by lighting the torch. Thereafter, field dance, aerobics dance, legium and yoga asanas were performed by the students of



the school and a ceremony was held in front of the guests and parents.

Tug of war, needle-thread games were also organized for the parents who came for the competition. In the end, the team of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam House won the maximum number of medals in all the competi-

tions and won the running trophy by becoming the champion in the sports festival.

Vice President Dr JK Upadhyay and Principal AlokaSahuin their said that sports leads to all-round development of children and also positivity remains in children.

Villagers accuse Sarpanch of cutting green trees at village Bhatgaon

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Villagers of Bhatgaon have accused their sarpanch of cutting green trees and using the timber for fencing at his farm. The villagers stated that their village is near an industrial area.

They added that green trees help in reducing the pollution level. The villagers of Bhatgaon made this complaint to the Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena on Monday. The Collector asked the officials to investigate the matter and take necessary action.

An application related to Surya Treasure Mall was also submitted. The appli-

cant raised an objection to the parking fee being charged by Treasure Mall. In Jandarshan, most of the cases were related to revenue matters while some cases were of mutual dispute. NH officials also put a topic related to road safety in Jandarshan. All applications were disposed of on the spot.

A family from Supela complained that they are very upset with the neighbour. Their street is narrow and the neighbour parks his goods vehicle on the street. Due to this goods vehicle, the applicant is unable to take out his small car. Due to this his goods vehicle, the vehicles of sanitation work-



ers are also unable to move in the street. The drain was also damaged by this vehicle.

When the locals raise objections, the neighbour threatens them. The family stated that they are suffering a lot because of such behaviour of the neighbour. The Collector

asked the station-in-charge Supela to take necessary action in this regard. Another family also shared their pain in Jandarshan. The family stated that some anti-social elements have encroached upon their plot and are threatening them.

Mohammad Naushad, a

resident of Takiapara, said that he had taken a loan of Rs 30,000 from the bank. He is a beneficiary of the PM Swanidhi Scheme. He repaid the loan but the bank officials did not enter it in the accounts. Because of this, he is not getting the loan of Rs 50,000. The Collector instructed the Lead Bank Officer to take necessary action in this regard.

Members of Shivnath River Fishermen Divers Committee met the Collector and urged him to provide the benefits of government schemes. The Collector gave instructions to the officer of the fisheries department to provide benefits under the

MatsyaSampada Yojana.

A villager of village Kherdha said that his work of Pramanikaran (Verification of ownerships transfer) is pending since many days. The Collector instructed the revenue officers to do this work without delay. The complaint of illegal plotting in Baba Deep Singh Nagar Kohka also reached the Jandarshan.

Along with this, an applicant stated that he has a plot in Junwani Model Town, the plot has been surrounded from all sides in such a way that there is no place to reach the plot. The Collector directed the Tehsildar for necessary action in this regard.

Science Exhibition at Jyoti Vidyalaya

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Science and Art Exhibition was organised at Jyoti Vidyalaya Charoda.

The performance objective of the students from class 3rd to 12th was "Imagine-Invent and Inspire". With hard work the students made more than 100 models. The chief guests were Dr Sister Elsheena Mary, besides Manager of School Dr Suja Mary, CBSE Principal Sister Sheril Mary, Vice Principal Sister Reshmi Mary, CG Principal Sister Akhila Mary, Vice Principal Parmita Mishra. The judge was Dr Prasad. CG Principal Akhila Mary said that she's proud of the children and teachers because of the fact that the children spared their games period and



tried hard to make models for this exhibition. Chief Guest Dr Sister Elsheena Mary explained that it was the day of inauguration of Science Club and this was the first exhibition. She also wished the children a bright future. The cooperation of all the teachers was commendable.

Vivek, Nitin, Thameswar to participate in National Powerlifting Competition



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: Vivek Shah, Nitin Sahu and Thameswar Dhivar (Billa) of Jai Hanuman VyamshalaKumhari have secured berth to participate in the National Powerlifting and bench Press Competition starting in Aurangabad (Maharashtra) from January 17. All are students of Jai Hanuman Vyamshala. Information on this account was given by Pradeep Jha, Vice President of Chhattisgarh Powerlifting Association and former Mr Chhattisgarh. Jha further revealed that these three players had ensured their place in the national power lifting competition by winning medals in the state level power lifting competition held at Kumhari a few

months back. KumhariMunicipal Council Vice President K Ravi Kumar has provided financial assistance to all the selected players to express his happiness and solidarity. Here it is worth mentioning that earlier K Ravi Kumar had announced that he would bear the expenses of all the local players on selection at national and international level. Appreciating the act, coach Pradeep Jha thanked K Ravi Kumar and said that if all the public representatives and well off people of the society continue to support the players of the state in the same way, then the players of the state will make the state and the country proud not only at the national level but also at the international level.

Safety Engineering Department organises Mega drawing & painting competition

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: The Safety Engineering Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has successfully carried out its various efforts to enhance safety. Along with the work areas of the plant, several efforts have been made to create awareness among the general public, youth and children in the Township areas of Bhilai. Under these efforts, on January 15, 2023, BSP's Safety Engineering Department organised a "drawing and painting competition" based on the various topic of safety and fire fighting for school children at SunitiUdyan, Sector-8.

The competition was organised in 6 categories on different topics related to safety, in which different topics were allotted for different categories, i.e. any area of safety for class nursery, general



safety for children from class 1 to 3, home/fire safety for children from class 4 to 5, road/rail safety for class 6 to 8, Industrial/Environmental Safety class 9 to 12 and General Safety for Divyangjan. More than 1200 students from all categories participated in this "Drawing and Painting Competition" organised under the guidance of GP Singh, Acting Chief General Manager (Safety & Fire Services). On this

occasion, Superintendent of Police of Durg District Dr Abhishek Pallava, Executive Director (Personnel & Administration) of SAIL-BSP MM Gadre, CMO Incharge (M&HS) Dr M Ravindranath, and senior officers of BSP were specially present. This competition was organized by the Safety Engineering Department at SunitiUdyan, Sector-8 on January 15, 2023 from 10:00 hrs to 12:00 hrs. The

Drawing and Painting Competition on Safety received a good response. It may be noted that SAIL-Bhilai is celebrating the month of January as Safety Month. In this competition, along with the children, their parents were also present. Six groups of participants were given various topics on safety like industrial, environmental safety, home & fire safety, road & rail safety and general safety on the spot.

Under the leadership of GP Singh, Acting Chief General Manager (Security & Fire Services), all the officers, employees and safety warriors of the Safety Engineering Department made their significant contribution to make this program a success. An exhibition of selected paintings of this competition will be displayed in BSP's Nehru Art Gallery for general public.

Caster No 6 in SMS 2 crosses half century, sets new record of 52 Heats



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 16: High speed Caster 6 in SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Steel Melting Shop 2 smashed all its records made recently and set a new high with 52 heats in longest ever sequence in single tundish on January 15, 2023. The total caster running time in single sequence was 34 hours.

This new high was against previous best of 47 heats with caster running time of 32 hours recorded on January 12, 2023. It is worth mentioning that such record number of heats have been achieved as against tundish guaranteed life of 17 heats. The record performances have been made possible by Caster 6 Team through high levels of operational efficiency. The entire Caster 6 Team led by Alok Mathur, GM (Operation) and well supported by Yogesh Shastri GM (Mechanical), Saurav Jain, GM (Electrical), Madhu Pillai, GM (Instrumentation) was congratulated by ED (Works) Anjani Kumar, CGM, SMS 2, SK Ghoshal and other senior officers of the Plant for setting a new benchmark.

Caster No 6 of SMS 2 had earlier recorded 45 heats on January 06, 2023, 44 heats on January 04, 2023, 42 heats on January 01, 2023, 41 heat on December 30, 2022, 40 heats on December 16, 2022, 36 heats on December 10, 2022 and 35 heats achieved on December 06, 2022.

Illegal lodges operating in the city

Legal literacy, awareness camp held

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 16: Dozens of lodges have been constructed and operated against the rules for the convenience of thousands of devotees who reach the religious city of Dongargarh, but according to information many are being operated illegally also.

Dozens of houses from the railway station to the temple are being used by the landlord as lodges and cases related to illegal business including rape of minors reach the court through the police.

While taking a decision in one such case, Additional Sessions Judge Hon'ble Anish Dubey directed the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police to take necessary action against the illegally operated lodges. In the judg-



ment given by Additional Sessions Judge Anish Dubey against Abhishek Agarwal, accused of raping a minor girl, the Judge gave the verdict.

Additional Sessions Judge in his decision has further stated that the CC TV cameras required for the operation of the lodge operated in Dongargarh, their recording and entry of those coming and stay-

ing in the lodge's register were not done and therefore many trials under the POCSO Act, almost half of the cases took place in these lodges.

While according to the rules made by the central and state governments, the license of such lodges should be canceled immediately and sealed. Meanwhile in the decision given by the Additional

Sessions Judge, it has been further said that, against all the persons running all the lodges and guest rooms of Dongargarh tehsil, action is to be taken, and a copy of this decision should be sent along with the memorandum to the District Magistrate, Rajnandgaon and Superintendent of Police, Rajnandgaon for necessary action.

● In Gram Panchayat Named

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Jan 15: As per instructions from Chhattisgarh State Legal Service Authority (CSLSA) Bilaspur, a district literacy and legal awareness programme was organised for aspirational districts under 'Disha Scheme' in Gram Panchayat Named on Sunday.

The chief guest of the programme was Chief Judicial Magistrate Bijapur Jagdish Ram and he gave information about legal awareness. Jagdish Ram said that to pass on the benefits of the state government's schemes to general public and to create legal awareness among them is the main objective of this programme, so that no one



from any section of the society is deprived of any schemes, or legal assistance or justice.

During this SDM Bijapur Pawan Kumar Premi gave information in detailed about the RBC-6-4 caste certificate and other services under the Revenue Department. CEO District Panchayat Fagesh Sinha under MGN-REGA created awareness about employment genera-

tion and various employment-oriented schemes of the state government and urged them to avail benefit of the schemes.

Lead Bank Officer in the programme gave information about various employment-oriented loans and banking services and facilities. In this programme, information about departmental schemes related to Women & Child Development Department;

Health deptt; Agriculture, Traffic deptt; Mukhyamantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana; and others was provided through exhibition and stalls. Here information related to schemes was passed onto the people through pamphlets, brochures and others. The chief guest later distributed materials to eligible beneficiaries under various government schemes.

BJPMC meet in Raipur on Jan 18

Central Chronicle News

Dalli-Rajhara, Jan 16: The meeting of BJP Minorities Cell (BJPMC) will be held in capital city on Jan 18. As per instructions from BJP state head, the meeting of newly elected state office bearers of BJPMC and divisional in-charge and co-in-charges will be held in Raipur on Jan 18 at 11:00 am at party's Kushabhau Thakre premises.

In this meeting, BJP state chief Arun Sao, Morcha in-charge Dr Salim Raj, State in-charge Mohammed Saddam, Morcha co-in-charge Arif Khan, and



Swadheen Jain

other guests and BJP Minorities Cell State Chief Shakeel Ahmed will chair it, informs BJPMC's media in-charge Swadheen Jain in a press release.

30th Int'nl Boudha Sammelan to be held on Feb 6

In Pragyagiri; delegation meets ex-CM and MLA

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 16: The organisation of 30th International Boudha Sammelan under the chairmanship of founder of 'Pragyagiri', world famous 'Dhaamdoot Puja Bhadant Sangratna Manke (President Pattra Metta Sangh, Bharat), will be held on Feb 6, 2023 at 'Pragyagiri Parvat'.

It is under the guidance of Puja Bhadant Sangh Ratna Manke, the 'Bhadanta Dhammatap' paid courtesy call to ex-CM Dr Raman Singh (MLA Rajnandgaon), MLA Dongargarh



Bhuneshwar Baghel and President CG State SC Commission and DCCB Rajnandgaon district

President Navaz Khan and invited them as chief guest for the Feb 6 International Boudha

Sammelan.

The guests wholeheartedly accepted the invitation and wished all the best for this sammelan. During this meeting, senior social worker Kanhaiyalal Khobragade, Rajnandgaon, Pragyagiri branch Dongargarh 'Pattra Metta Sangh Youth' President Upasika Jyoti Meshram, V-P Piyush Ganvir, Sachiv-Pradeep Gajbhiye, Treasurer- Rajat Gajbhiye, social worker Kiran Meshram, Pragesh Sahare, Dongargarh and other members of Boudha Samaj were present.

'Bung' Samaj pay rich tributes to Swami Vivekanand



Central Chronicle News

Dalli-Rajhara, Jan 16: On occasion of 160th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand, the members of 'Bung' Samaj offered rich tributes and expressed his thoughts and ideology. On this occasion Head of 'Bung'

Samaj- Gagan Pandaya, Gautam Bera, Sapan Charabarty, Madan Mayati, CS Mandal, HC Sarkar; Bapi Mayti, Pintu Charabarty, Bapi Aich, from Mahila Mandal- Purobi Verma, Reena Pandaya, Laxmi Sinha, Mitthu Didi and others were present.

Declaration of Rs 15000 made for HS School



● By Minister's rep in Gram Khallari
● On occasion of School's silver jubilee celebrations

Central Chronicle News

Dalli-Rajhara, Jan 16: On occasion of silver jubilee celebration of Government HS School, Gram Khallari, the Minister's rep Piyush

Soni was the chief guest. The school's management welcomed the Minister's rep with a flower bouquet and who in his address later made a declaration of donating Rs 15000 for construction of cultural platform for holding cultural programmes and he also felicitated the talented students.

The School's management expressed gratitude towards Minister's repre-

sentative for the declaration made. On this occasion, Janpad Panchayat V-P Puneet Sen, Janpad member Tikam Netam, corporator Paltan Bhuarya, Khairvahi, and Sarpanch Budhan Singh Uiquey, media in-charge Ravikant Deshmukh, School's Principal Johnson Madam, Sarpanch of Gram and students of School and villagers were present in large number.

'Kalash Yatra' marks beginning of Bhagwat Katha

Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahirwara, Jan 15: Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran Gyan Yagna week will be organised in Nagar Palika Parishad Ahirwara ward No. 3 at Mangal Bhavan from Jan 15-21. On the first day, a massive 'Kalash Yatra' was taken out from the resident of Natwar Lal Tamrakar- President Nagar Palika

Parishad Ahirwara in the presence of 'Bhagwan Laddu Gopalji' and 'Ramdhuni' music and it reached 'Sheetala Mandir'. Here prayers were offered and all the women filling water in the 'Kalash' passed through different localities and reached the venue of Srimad Bhagwat katha. Nyas Brahmachari is Jyotirmaryanand Sapid Lakheshwar Dhaam Saldha.



Donations, flying kite marks 'Makar Sankranti'

Central Chronicle News

Birkoni, Jan 16: The devotees enthusiastically celebrated the festival of 'Makar Sankranti' in Gram Badgaon, Barbaspur, Achridih, Nayapara, Kampa of Bikorni region here on Sunday. On the first day of the 'Maadh Maah', the devotees started reaching the banks of river during 'Brahma muhurat' at wee hours of Sunday and took the Holy dip.

As per rituals, the people took the Holy dip and offered prayers and then delivered 'water' to the Sun. Apart from this they also paid obeisance in the temples and sought blessings for happy and peaceful life and started the day's work.

On this occasion people also offered donations in the form of sweets made out of 'til' and 'gud'. The children enjoyed the festival eating 'til ke ladoos' and flying the kite in the morning. The chill in the morning com-



pared to first week of January was comparatively less and the children had to do lot of work in order to make their kites fly, as the flow of wind was very slow. Colourful kites can be seen in the sky with the arrival of 'Makar Sankranti'.

On the other hand, woman and girls keeping fast, celebrated the festival of 'Makar Sankranti'. First they applied a layer of freshly collected cow-dung in their courtyard and

they enjoyed the flying of kites and lighting of 'diyas' in their courtyard and sought blessings for peace and prosperity of all in the family.

Later the people left for outing to nearby places along with their family members and visited 'Mahanadi', 'Shwet Ganga', 'Hathkhaj', 'Mahadev Ghat', Rajim and enjoyed the whole weekend. There was festive season near rivers, temples throughout the day.

Meeting of Rajim Maghi Punni Mela Central Committee held

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Jan 16: Rajim Maghi Punni Fair, Central Committee meeting was held here at Mangal Bhawan of Rajim Nagar Panchayat under the chairmanship of Religious Trust and Endowment Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu. Rajim MLA Amitesh Shukla and Mahant Ram Sundar Das, President of Gou Seva Aayog were especially present in the meeting.

In the meeting, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said that keeping in mind the convenience and safety of the devotees, arrangements will be made better than before. Sahu further said that as per tra-



dition, this year Rajim Maghi Punni Mela will be held from February 5 to February 18 and for the convenience of the people, arrangements will be made for roads, toilets, electricity, water, sanitation etc.

The Minister has instructed Gariaband District Collector Prabhat

Malik to make necessary preparations and hold meetings in this regard. Also arrangement of perennial water in Rajim Aniket, fogging machine, bio-toilet, organizing cultural programs in Panchkoshi Dham, arranging dome for organizing free Bhandara by



Rajim Bhaktin Mata Samiti will be taken into consideration.

Central committee member and former MP Chandu Lal Sahu, Rajim Nagar Panchayat President Mrs. Rekha Sonkar, Gobra Nawapara Municipality President Dhanraj Madhyani, District

Panchayat Member Mrs. Lakshmi Sahu, District President Pushpa Sahu, Congress President Bhav Singh Sahu, District Panchayat CEO Roktima Yadav dignitaries including Additional Collector Avinash Bhoi, Sub-Divisional Officer Pooja Bansal were present.

Sports also provide social development: Jalan

Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, Jan 16: Pendra Nagar Panchayat President Rakesh Jalan speaking as the chief guest of cricket competition said that sports not only helps in physical development, but also in social development and therefore the youth should keep interest in sports as well. Jalan further said that on losing any game or sports, the youth should not feel disappointed, rather they should make efforts with double the energy to attain victory next time and those who always makes efforts never face disappointment.

He said that the players of the state and country are bringing laurels in all forms of the sports and to promote the sports, Chhattisgarh government has also taken a very important decision and one such recent exam-

ple is the Chhattisgarhia Olympics. On this occasion senior corporator Iqbal Singh, senior Congmen Pawan Sultania, Janpad

Panchayat V-P Jeewan Singh Bacharwar, Sarpanch and other villagers and all cricket players were present.

ESAF REGD. OFFICE: ESAF Bhavan, Manuthy, Thrissur- 680 651, Kerala.

ESAF SMALL FINANCE BANK

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with ESAF Small Finance Bank and not redeemed by borrowers, despite repeated reminders and notices, of our branches, are listed below. This will be auctioned as per the details given below:

DATE OF AUCTION : 20-01-2023 TIME : 10 AM TO 4 PM

AUCTION VENUE : THROUGH E-AUCTION

AUCTION ADDRESS : <https://gold.matxnet.org/>

To register as bidder for the e-Auction with terms and conditions, and full details of e-Auction please visit the above site

BRANCHES & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

BHILAI: 63210001582661, **KORBA:** 63210001608954, 1613094, **RAIGARH:** 632100011600529

Customers who are interested to release the ornaments by paying the total due amount may do so, at the respective branches, on or two days before the date of the auction.

Bidders who wish to participate in the auction shall produce their KYC documents. GST No. is mandatory for registered firms/companies. Bidder shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000 as EMD before participating in the auction.

Thrissur Date: 17-01-2023 Sd/- Authorized Signatory

CM Baghel visited Cosmo Expo 2023

More than 300 stalls of various trades have been set up.

Raipur, Jan 16:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the Cosmo Expo 2023 programme at Shri Ram Business Park on Sunday. The Chief Minister toured the stalls set up at this fair. He complimented the members of the Rotary Club of Raipur on this wonderful occasion. He stated that the performance of practically all industrial trades may be seen at this major event. 'I am pleased that the Chhattisgarh government is also participating in this event', he added.



From automobiles to real estate and education, the Expo provides easy access to information about developments taking place in the country and around the world. This fair has about 300 stalls representing diverse trades. In addition, the public relations department, along with several government departments, enhanced the display of the Chhattisgarh development

model at the expo. On this occasion, Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Kuldeep Singh Juneja, and Mayor of Raipur Municipal Corporation Aijaz Dhebar were also present.

Bhagat to conclude Tatapani Mohotsava today

Balrampur, Jan 16:

The three-day festival in Tatapani, Balrampur's historical site will conclude today. Food and Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat will be the chief guest of the programme, which will be presided over by Vice President of Surguja Area Tribal Development Authority Brihaspat Singh. Parliamentary Secretary Chintamani Maharaj will be present as special guest. Famous Bhojpuri artists Kajal Raghavani and Mohan Rathore will present cultural performances at the closing ceremony. Prior to this, school-children will showcase their talent on stage through dancing, as well as the art and culture of Chhattisgarh.

Jhumka Jal Mahotsav 2023 to be organized in Korea from today

Korea, Jan 16

In a bid to promote the culture, tourism, and beauty of Korea district, a two-day long Jhumka Jal Mahotsav is being organized by the district administration from January 17. People will be made educated about the achievements of the district through departmental exhibitions. The programme will be inaugurated on January 17 by Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat. Home and District in-charge Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu will be the chief guest at the closing ceremony.

Preparations are in the final stage for the successful organization of the festival. District Collector Shri Vinay Kumar Langeh inspected the programme venue today and took stock of all the arrangements

there besides giving directions to the officials for discharging their

guests will observe the kite festival and painting exhibition at Jhumka Island. Presentation of melodious songs by



allocated duties efficiently. Event Schedule and performances: On day one, on the inauguration of the festival on January 17, at 1:00 pm, the stalls set up by various departments will be observed after the inaugural programme. Following this, the chief and special

Chhattisgarhi artist Sushri Aaru Sahu at 2:50 pm and cultural presentations will be given by local artists at 3:40 pm. The performance of Chhattisgarhi artist Sunil Manikpuri is sched-

uled to be held at 5:00 pm and Odissi dancer Smt. Purnashree Raut at 6:00 pm. There will be attractive performances by famous Chhattisgarhi artist Anuj Sharma at 7:00 pm and Bollywood artist Vinod Rathore at 8:00 pm.

On the second day of Jhumka Jal Mahotsav, on January 18, at 1:00 pm, after the welcoming of the chief and special guests, a performance of local artists will be held at 2:00 pm, a performance by Chhattisgarhi artist Shri Sanjay Surila at 4:00 pm. Performances will be given by Sufi artist Shri Nasir Ninder at 5:30 pm and by other artists at 6:45 pm. At 6:55 pm, the festival will conclude with performances by Chhattisgarhi artist Shri Sunil Soni and Bollywood artist Shri Sukhbir Singh.

BALCO launches eco-friendly 2023 calendar, sets an example in sustainable practices

Balconagar, (Korba) Jan 16: Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer, has launched an eco-friendly calendar for the year 2023, entirely made of recycled paper and decomposable fabric with zero plastic. The recycled paper has seeds embedded in it which, when planted in soil and watered, will grow into flowering plants like marigold and many wildflowers.



Themed on 'transforming for a sustainable future', the calendar was designed with the aim to inspire action by viewers when it comes to individual responsibility towards environmental sustainability. To source designs for the calendar, BALCO organized a contest where employees, business partners and family members were invited to submit

paintings and sketches on the theme. Out of these, 12 artworks were selected to be featured on every page of the calendar with a short description of the messages they carry. The calendar is a visual manifestation of how the company strives to inculcate sustainability-oriented actions, behavior and operations in

every walk of life. Unveiling the calendar for public, Abhijit Pati, CEO and Director, BALCO, said, "BALCO aims to be at the forefront of industry-leading sustainable business practices, as a steward for the industry. Our commitment to safeguarding the future of coming generations is embedded in our vision, corporate

objectives, production processes and the way we conduct our business. This journey is seeing us transition to clean technologies, increase quantum of renewables in our energy mix, reduce our carbon footprint, and embed the principles of sustainability in the way we conduct our business. As we work on the bigger agendas,

we are equally conscious of the snowballing effect of unsustainable everyday actions. Our eco-friendly calendar stands testimony to this sensitivity which is so deeply ingrained in our organizational culture." In line with Vedanta's aim to become an Environment, Social & Governance (ESG) leader in the natural resources sector and to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2050 or sooner, BALCO is working on 9 themes for ESG excellence, namely, Biodiversity, Carbon & Energy Efficiency, Environment Management, Communities & Social Performance, People, Health & Safety, Supply Chain, Renewable Energy and Water Management. Together, these form the pillars that will drive 'green' growth for the company in the days to come.

A talk on 'Exploring well-being in the Indian context'

Raipur, Jan 16:

The Department of Liberal Arts at IIT Bhilai hosted Prof Kamlesh Singh from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Delhi for a lecture titled "Exploring well-being in the Indian context". The lecture was organized on Friday under the aegis of Intersections, the lecture series of the Department.

Analyzing well-being in the contemporary context, Prof Singh started with a wide range of definitions of happiness and well-being across the globe. She focused on the indigenous aspects of well-being in India, mainly referring to the Low Arousal Positive Affect and the Sat-Chit-Anand model.



The discussion revolved around choosing the right combination of tools for giving interventions to introduce well-being and happiness as per the context and various aspects of the population.

These include intervention studies addressing character strengths, stress management, and yoga-based courses in enhancing relevant well-being in-

dicators among college students. She also spoke about a digital intervention program on Mental Health Literacy among rural residents. The lecture provided students and faculty of the institute many pertinent insights on inculcating happy habits and orienting themselves to positivity in their everyday lived experience.

CM inaugurates first 'Shaheed Park' of the state in Balrampur



Raipur, Jan 16: To commemorate the sacrifices and contributions of the martyrs forever, a "Shaheed Park" has been established in Balrampur Ramanujan district. This is the first ever Shaheed Park of Chhattisgarh. Chief Ministers Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the "Shaheed Park" on the

occasion of Makar Sankranti here on Sunday. In this park located at Shahid chowk of Balrampur, statues of Martyrs viz. constable Anil Khalko, Sub-Inspector Nabaur Kujur, head constable Manazur Haq, Sub-Inspector Masih Bhusan Lakra, head constable Ram Sai Ram have been installed. Below the statues,

Statues of Martyrs from Balrampur Ramanujan district have been installed in this park

the bio-data of these Martyrs has been engraved, so that people may learn about their invaluable contribution and sacrifices. Large number of people are visiting Shaheed Park to pay respect to these brave souls of the nation. With this initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, honouring and remembrance of Martyrs will not remain confined to one day, rather they would be cherished and remembered every day. People will get inspired by the stories of bravery sacrifices of these martyrs.

GST's divisional office should be opened in Jagdalpur: Malviya

For convenience of tax-payers from remote 7 districts of Bastar region

Jagdalpur, Jan 16:

State Co-convenor of BJP Economic Cell, Advocate Vipin Malviya has written a letter to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Commercial Tax and GST Minister TS Singh Deo, demanding that at present from the remote areas are Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, Bastar, Kondagaon Narayanpur and Kanker, the Tax payers of the area have to go to Raipur for appeal and revision of their GST and VAT tax. They have to face lots of difficulties as the distance is long. Keeping in view the problems of the traders of Bastar, he

has requested the Chhattisgarh government to open the divisional headquarters of GST (state tax) in Jagdalpur as well.

He told that Jagdalpur, the divisional headquarters of Bastar division, is administratively the headquarters of Bastar division. In which 7 districts Bastar, Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, Kondagaon, Narayanpur and Kanker are included respectively. Currently Commercial Tax/GST is in Jagdalpur. There are two circle offices under this viz. Office of Commercial Tax Office Jagdalpur Circle-1 and Commercial Tax Office



Jagdalpur Circle-2 and both are located in Jagdalpur respectively. In both these offices, businessmen of Bastar district, Sukma district, Dantewada district, Bijapur district, Kondagaon district and

Narayanpur district are dealt with. There are more than 25,000 registered taxpayers in these two offices.

Vipin Malviya said that at present tax payers of remote areas Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, Bastar, Kondagaon Narayanpur and Kanker areas have to go to the divisional headquarters Raipur for Appeal and revision of their GST and VAT tax. Which is about 431 km distance from Bijapur to Raipur. The distance from Sukma to Raipur is approximately 410 kms. The distance from Jagdalpur to Raipur is about 300 kms. The distance of other districts is also about 200 km till

Raipur. Due to which there is loss of time and money of the taxpayer.

Geographically, the area of Bastar division is bigger than the state of Kerala, therefore, keeping in view the convenience of the traders of Bastar division, it would be fair to open the divisional office of GST (State Tax) of Bastar division by making Jagdalpur the headquarters.

With the inclusion of Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, Bastar, Kondagaon, Narayanpur and Kanker districts of Bastar division, the businessmen of these places will get a lot of convenience, he added.

Illuminating beams from CU will spread like the Uttarayan Sun: Prof. Dave

Foundation Day celebrated with enthusiasm in CU

Bilaspur, Jan 16:

The 15th Foundation Day and 14th anniversary celebrations were organized on January 15, 2023 in Guru Ghasidas University (Central University). The Chief Guest of the ceremony organized at Rajat Jayanti Sabhagar of the University at 11 am was Prof. Neelambari Dave, Former Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat. The program was presided over by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal through virtual medium. Among the guests on the stage were the Vice-Chancellor in-charge of the university, Prof. Amit Saxena, the Registrar, Prof. Manish Srivastava and Dean Student Welfare, Prof. M.N. Tripathi.

The Chief Guest of the 15th Foundation Day program, Prof. Neelambari Dave, extended her good wishes to all those present on the foundation day and Makar Sankranti. She remarked that the word 'university' conveys the sense of 'universal' and 'a place of learning', which means that we represent the whole of the academic world and this responsibility means that we become better human beings too while excelling intellectually. She added that just as there is continuous increase in sunlight in Uttarayan, similarly the university is showing progressive growth. Professor Dave also pointed out that we must make the academic environment of the university more lively by taking advantage of the experience of senior people.



While presiding over the ceremony, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, while congratulating all on Makar Sankranti and Foundation Day, said that in accordance with the directives and the spirit of the National Education Policy 2020, Swavalambi Chhattisgarh scheme has been started in the university, through which we are continuously striving to make students self-reliant.

All the teachers are working together to provide value based, experiential, and employable education to the students. In this context, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakrawal mentioned that the work of mushroom production has been started by the Department of Rural Technology and Social Work Department, and it will be carried out on a large scale in the coming times and the students will be financially benefited

from it. He said that to achieve the targets a company has been set up under Section 8 to carry out various industrial and innovation activities. For monitoring and marketing of production of mushroom and other products, cooperation of online marketing websites will also be taken. He pointed out that such enterprises of the university are already resulting in consultancy offers. Prof. Chakrawal said, "We should do what we relish

but with the proviso that it should benefit the society. At the same time, do the smallest task with your whole heart."

In-charge Vice-Chancellor Prof. Amit Kumar Saxena took a retrospective look at the arduous journey of the university with contributions of many people and provided detailed information about the upgradation from State University to Central University. After that, the Chief Guest Prof.

Neelambari Dave, former Vice-Chancellor of Saurashtra University, Rajkot Gujarat flagged off the procession of e-rickshaws and bicycles acquired under the Green Campus Campaign. Handicraft exhibition by the Department of Rural Technology and Department of Social Work and medicinal tea stall set up by the students of the Pharmacy Department were other highlights of the celebrations. Earlier, in the program organized at the Silver Jubilee Auditorium, the guests lit the lamp and offered flowers at the statue of Maa Saraswati and Baba Guru Ghasidas. Simultaneously, the Tarang Band gave a mesmerizing presentation of Saraswati Vandana and Kulgeet. After that, the

guests on the stage were welcomed with saplings. The welcome address was delivered by the Convener of the event, Dean Student Welfare, Dr. M.N. Tripathi.

Certificates and medals were given to the winners of events and competitions, students of NSS and NCC by the guests on the stage. The guests were felicitated with shawls, shreephals, and mementoes. The program was conducted by Dr. Garima Tiwari, Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment Science. The Registrar of the University Prof. Manish Srivastava, delivered the vote of thanks. Deans of various schools, heads of departments, teachers, officers, employees, research scholars and students were present at the function.

Prominent Pakistani lawyer murdered in Peshawar High Court bar room firing

Peshawar, Jan 16 (PTI):

A prominent Pakistani lawyer was murdered on Monday under dramatic circumstances after another lawyer opened fire at him in the bar room of the Peshawar High Court.

Abdul Latif Afridi, 79, was the former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and a key figure at the forefront of the lawyers' movement in Pakistan that culminated in the restoration of former Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry. On Monday, Afridi was seated in the bar room at the Peshawar High Court, when Adnan, a trainee lawyer, opened fire at him, police said. The senior lawyer was immediately shifted to the Lady Reading Hospital



Former Supreme Court Bar Association president and senior lawyer Latif Afridi was killed during firing inside the Peshawar High Court (PHC) bar room on Monday.

here, but he was pronounced dead on arrival, hospital spokesperson Muhammad Asim said. Six bullets were fired at Afridi, Asim said. Police have arrested Adnan. He

was shifted to the anti-terrorism court here under tight security. Police suspected the attack was carried out of "personal enmity". They are also probing how Adnan managed to bring a pistol inside the Peshawar High Court premises. In 1979, Afridi was imprisoned by former Pakistan President General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq for participating in political activities against his regime's martial law. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed "deep sorrow" over Afridi's murder. "I pray that the bereaved family bear this loss with fortitude. The worsening law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is alarming," Prime Minister Sharif said in a tweet.

19 dead, dozens injured in Senegal road crash

Dakar, Jan 16 (AP): A bus swerved to avoid hitting a donkey and collided with a truck, killing at least 19 people and injuring dozens of others in Senegal on Monday, authorities said.

The collision happened near Ngeun Sarr in the country's north, President Macky Sall tweeted.

"Yet another fatal accident on our roads," he said. "My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Speedy recovery to the injured."

The crash involved a public bus and a transport truck, the fire department said. The bus was apparently trying to avoid hitting a donkey, local fire department commander Lt. Ousseynou Ndiaye said.

Last week, 40 people were killed in a bus crash in Gnivy village, in Senegal's Kaffrine region. After that crash, the government announced reforms to try and stem collisions.

PREPARATION FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR



Women clean statues of Chinese gods in preparation for Lunar New Year celebrations at the Dhanagun Temple in Bogor, Indonesia, Monday, Jan. 16. People of Chinese descent in the world's most populous Muslim country are preparing to celebrate Lunar New Year of the Rabbit on Jan. 22.

As 37 die in apartment strike, Russia seen readying long war

Kyiv, Jan 16 (AP):

The death toll from a weekend Russian missile strike on an apartment building in the southeastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro has risen to 37, authorities said on Monday, as western analysts identified signs the Kremlin was preparing for a drawn-out war in Ukraine after almost 11 months of fighting.

The victims from Saturday's strike on the multi-story residential tower included two children, Ukraine's National Police reported, and 15 children are among the 75 injured.

The rescue and search operation was ongoing, with 39 people, including six children, taken from the ruins so far, the police said in a statement.



Rescuers work on a residential building destroyed after a missile strike, in Dnipro. A strike on a residential building in the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro killed 37 people and many more injured, officials said.

About 1,700 people lived in the apartment building. Residents said there were no military facilities at the site. The reported death toll made it the deadliest single attack on civilians since before the summer, according to The Associated

Press-Frontline War Crimes Watch project. The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, called the

strike, and others like it, "inhumane aggression" because it directly targeted civilians.

"There will be no impunity for these crimes," he said in a tweet on Sunday.

Asked about the strike on Monday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian military doesn't target residential buildings and suggested the Dnipro building was hit as a result of Ukrainian air defence actions.

The Ukrainian military said on Sunday that it did not have the means to intercept the type of Russian missile used in Saturday's strike.

The strike on the building came amid a wider barrage of Russian cruise missiles across Ukraine.

Myanmar arms industry growing after army takeover

Bangkok, Jan 16 (AP):

Companies from at least 13 countries have helped Myanmar build up its capacity to produce weapons that are being used to commit atrocities following a 2021 military takeover, independent international experts have found.

The report released Monday by the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar details how the country has stepped up arms production since the army seized power on February 1, 2021, igniting a mass public opposition movement.

The army's takeover from elected civilian leaders reversed nearly a decade of progress to-

ward democracy after 50 years of military rule. After security forces used lethal force against peaceful demonstrators, opponents of military rule took up arms. Some UN experts have characterized the situation as a civil war. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners has documented more than 2,700 civilian deaths in the violence, including 277 children, while more than 13,000 people have been detained. The true number is believed to be much higher.

Companies in the US, Europe, Asia and the Middle East are supporting the military supply chain, the report says, urging those businesses

to ensure they are not facilitating human rights abuses. The growth of the homegrown arms industry comes as some countries have enforced arms embargoes or sanctions against individuals and companies involved in trading or manufacturing arms.

In October, the US Treasury imposed sanctions against Aung Moe Myint, a businessman close to the army who it said facilitates arms deals on its behalf. His brother, Hlaing Moe Myint, and the trading company they founded, Dynasty International Company Ltd., were also targeted. One of its directors, Myo Thitsar, also was designated for sanctions.

South Korea president, in UAE, backs return to nuclear power



Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, receives Yoon Suk Yeol, South Korea President and Kim Keon-hee, First Lady of South Korea, upon their arrival for a state visit reception, at Qasr Al Watani, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Abu Dhabi, Jan 16 (AP):

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said on Monday that his nation's efforts to be carbon neutral by 2050 would rely in part on returning to nuclear power, even though his predecessor had tried to move away from atomic power. Yoon's comments at a

summit in the United Arab Emirates, made in front of the country's leader, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, served to underline Seoul's commitment to nuclear power as it works to finish the Arabian Peninsula's first atomic power plant.

That could see South Korea in line for lucrative maintenance contracts and future projects in the UAE, which Seoul has grown closer to over recent years.

"Korea has ... declared its 2050 carbon neutrality goal," Yoon said in an address at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week.

"To achieve this goal, we are working to rapidly restore the nuclear power system, which supplies carbon-free electricity."

"If our two countries join efforts in clean energy development it will not only enhance our two countries energy security but also will contribute to global energy market stability," Yoon added. Yoon's predecessor, President Moon Jae-in, sought to move South Korea away from nuclear power amid safety and graft scandals and Japan's 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Australian boy wakes from coma after helicopter collision

Sydney, Jan 16 (AP):

A 10-year-old Australian boy who was critically injured two weeks ago when two helicopters collided, killing four people, had woken from a coma in hospital and held his father's hand, a family priest said.

Nicholas Tadros remained in the Queensland Children's Hospital in Brisbane where medical staff described his condition on Monday as "critical but stable."

His mother, Vanessa Tadros, 36, was killed when two Sea World theme park helicopters collided during joy flights on Jan. 2 at the tourist city of Gold Coast, 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Brisbane. She was buried on Monday after a funeral near the family home in



western Sydney. One of the priests who conducted the funeral, Father Suresh Kumar, posted on social media on Monday that the son has "been off life support now for a few days and his body has responded very well." "They have lowered his sedation medication at times to see if he is responsive and he has woken up and (been) able to respond to some

questions with a nod or a shake of the head," Kumar posted.

"He is also able to hold his Dad's hand," Kumar added, referring to Nicholas's father, Simon Tadros, who is credited as the source of the information in the statement.

Nicholas remained on a ventilator to support his breathing and was scheduled for more surgeries, the priest said.

Along with Nicholas's mother, British couple Ron and Diane Hughes and pilot Ashley Jenkinson were also killed in the collision that is being investigated by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

The other victims who remain in hospital are a 33-year-old mother and her 9-year-old son. The conditions of both are listed as stable.

2 killed, 12 missing in north China chemical plant explosion

Beijing, Jan 16 (AP):

A massive explosion at a chemical plant in northeastern China has killed at least two people and left 12 missing. Another 34 people were injured in the explosion Sunday on the outskirts of the city of Panjin in Liaoning province east of the capital Beijing. News releases from the local government showed photos of flames and thick black smoke rising from the complex of chemical processing machinery, pipes and storage containers. Fire crews have brought the blaze under control and the local environmental department was monitoring the impact on air quality

in the area, the government of Panshan County in the city's suburbs said in a news release. The cause of the accident remained under investigation, authorities said. People posting on social media said they felt the shock of the explosion, but the damage did not appear to extend beyond the plant. China, with the world's second-largest economy, suffers deadly industrial accidents on a regular basis. The central government has pledged stronger safety measures ever since an explosion in 2015 at a chemical warehouse in the northern port city of Tianjin killed 173 people, most of them firefighters and police officers.

Pakistan's average productivity growth remained just 1.5 pc from 2010 to 2020

Islamabad, Jan 16 (PTI):

Pakistan's average productivity growth, a crucial determinant of an economy's growth, remained just 1.5 per cent from 2010 to 2020, according to a media report.

Dawn reported that the study titled Sectoral Total Factor Productivity in Pakistan and noted that the growth of productivity is a crucial determinant of an economy's growth that has to be pushed higher to over 3 per cent. The study was the prod-

uct of research conducted by the planning ministry and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) — a think tank.

The study used unique listed and non-listed data from 1,321 firms divided into 61 sectors to estimate productivity growth in the country.

High-productivity growth sectors were mostly based on services or tech, whereas those with medium to low or negative productivity growth are in manufacturing, as per the report. Total factor productivi-

ty (TFP) growth is a crucial determinant of long-term output growth.

According to the study, evidence showed that economies that had TFP growth of more than 3 per cent had a GDP growth rate of 8 per cent or more, whereas TFP growth of less than 3 per cent was associated with a GDP growth rate between 3 per cent and 7 per cent.

The economy-wide TFP growth estimates show that both TFP and GDP growth have been erratic in Pakistan since the early 1970s.

For some years, TFP growth has even remained negative. Moreover, the economy-wide TFP growth, according to different estimates, has hovered around 2 per cent over the last few decades, it added.

In the study, 1,321 firms are divided into 61 sectors, with each firm's data spanning a period from 2010 to 2020. The study's results show that the average TFP growth for all the 61 sectors included in the analysis between 2010 and 2020 remained 1.5 per cent.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MANIYARI WATER RESOURCES DIVISION MUNGELI,
DISTT. MUNGELI (C.G.)

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

IN NIT No. : 19/SAC/2022-23, Mungeli, Dated 29-12-2022 System Tender No. 118342 (3rd Call) Whose G. No. is 97174/5 Dated 31-12-2022 following amendments are made -

S. No.	Particulars	Previous Published	Amendment As
1.	Bid Due date & time	16-01-2023, 17:30 Hours	19-01-2023, 17:30 Hours
2.	Bid Open, start date & time	17-01-2023, 11:30 Hours	20-01-2023, 11:30 Hours
3.	Physical Turnover - Hard Rock Excavation	Required Qty. for Pre-Qualification 676x0.5 = 225.33 Cum 08/12	Required Qty. for Pre-Qualification NIL

All other terms and conditions of NIT will remain unchanged.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MANIYARI WATER RESOURCES DIVISION MUNGELI
DISTT. MUNGELI (C.G.)
G-97666/1

DIRECTORATE, SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE, CHHATTISGARH
 Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, International Hockey Stadium,
 G.E. Road, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)
 Phone No 0771-2263178, Web.: www.sportsyw.cg.gov.in,
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No. NIT/1/Store/2022-23/ Raipur, Dated: / /2023

Expression of Interest

26th January 2023 Parade is scheduled to be organized in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. As per the orders of the Government of Chhattisgarh, this year Department of Sports & Youth Welfare, Chhattisgarh will also display the departmental tableau/hanki in the parade. A tableau hanki is to be displayed on the flagship schemes of the department on the occasion of Republic Day 26 January 2023 in the state capital city Raipur.

Expression of interest is invited for preparation of the same from reputed registered firms/agencies having successfully prepared tableaux/hanki during 26th January Raipur Parade in the last 10 years.

The EOJ document may be obtained from office of the undersigned on any working day during working hours on payment of Rs. 1000/- (Rs. One Thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft/Bankers Cheque issued by any nationalized bank in favor of Director Sports & Youth Welfare, Chhattisgarh Raipur.

Tender Schedule is as under-

Issue of EOJ Document - 16.01.2023
 Last date of sale of tender document - 21-01-2023 Up to 11:00 AM
 Last date and Time of Submission of Bid - 21-01-2023 Up to 12:00 Noon
 Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid - 21-01-2023 at 01:00 PM

Right of acceptance/rejection of any or all proposals reserved with the Director, Sports & Youth Welfare C.G.

Director
Sports & Youth Welfare,
Chhattisgarh, Raipur
G-97665/2



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 288

Viksit Yuva - Viksit Bharat

Youths are the powerhouse of any society. Young people can do many things either in a positive way or negative way. It depends on how young people are being mentored in their families or in academic institutions or in society. There is confusion amongst us when we use the word 'youth'. Well, the definition of youth may vary from country to country. According to the United Nations youth means young people between the age group of 15 and 24. According to the National Youth Policy (NYP), a young person up to the age of 29 is a youth in India. The NYP 2021 draws a detailed roadmap towards the vision outlined for the youth in the coming decade and delineates the actions within each priority area. One of the important days for the young people of India is the celebration of National Youth Day (NYD). NYD, also known as Vivekananda Jayanti, is celebrated on 12th January, the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. In 1984, the Government of India declared this day as NYD and since 1985 the event has been celebrated in India every year. We should not be in confusion as 12th August is observed as International Youth Day around the world. Swami Vivekananda's teachings and quotes have always been a source of inspiration for the youth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Youth Festival in Karnataka today. This is the 26th National Youth Festival of India. The festival was kicked off by PM Modi in the Hubballi district of the Southern state. Apart from this, schools and colleges from across India conducted different competitions, conferences, seminars, etc. Press Information Bureau's press release dated 10th January reads, "The National Youth Festival is held every year to provide exposure to our talented youth at the national level, along with galvanizing them towards nation building. It brings diverse cultures from all parts of the country on a common platform and unites the participants in the spirit of Ek Bharat and Shreshtha Bharat. This year, the Festival is being held in Hubballi-Dharwad in Karnataka from the 12th to the 16th of January, with the theme being 'Viksit Yuva - Viksit Bharat'. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organizing 'Y Talks' throughout the country for Y (Youth)-20 activities of G20. The National Youth Festival will set the pace for Y-20 engagement across the country by sensitizing the youth about the themes of Y-20. This year the NYF is being celebrated as Green Youth Festival where only reusable cutlery, napkins etc., are being used. All the mementoes, medals, and stationery are of reusable material. Water refilling stations are set up to reduce the use of disposables. This year's theme of 'Viksit Yuva - Viksit Bharat' means developed youth means developed India and to make our youths developed we have to take up different activities on a regular basis. Indian youths can wonder and lead the world in many aspects provided if they are mentored positively. Our youths are always proactive and they need proper mentoring and guidance at the right time. If the energy of youths is used for destructive activities then India cannot develop easily. Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved when the youth take part in different civic action programmes and volunteer activities apart from their studies and profession. Skill development is a must for all youths of the country to make India a superpower in the years to come. Let us learn from the teachings of Swami Vivekananda and all others who have done many activities for the welfare of youths. Together we can make a healthy and developed nation, so let us take up the challenge to be a change-maker and bring positive social transformation to society. Let us not forget that youths are not 'useless but they are used less', so let us use youths in different activities to make a developed country.

RVM will be a challenging exercise for ECI

Yash Pal Ralhan

BSP had already stated that ballot paper system be reintroduced and rejected the idea of EVM and not to talk of Remote Voting Machines. The various political parties had raised many objections including the clarification of definition of migrant labourer. Now it is the duty of election commission to satisfy the eight national political parties and 57 State parties. If sooner or later and after mutual understanding among the various political parties this RVM is implemented then it will be a revolutionary step taken by election commission. But as per the interest shown by various political parties, it appears to be difficult to implement the same. In the previous parliament elections also opposition parties had raised many objections on the use of EVM and due to this reason five EVM from each assembly are selected for each and every vote counted. In the entire country there was difference of one vote only. It is still a matter of study in the intense heat the software show some irregularities. In the recently concluded assembly elections in Gujarat, the low turnout made a special appeal by the Election commission to go for the RVM. Now the election commissioner had come forward with new idea of Remote Voting Machine and in this regard commission had called a meeting of stakeholders to know the views of all political parties and election commission will study the suggestions and again call a meeting of the all parties. Now let us see what Remote Electronic Voting machine is and how it will help to increase the percentage of voting. Migrant voters would not need to travel to their home districts to exercise their franchise if the remote electronic voting machine is implemented properly. The RVM will enable domestic migrant voters to exercise voting rights from a single machine. The multi constituency remote EVM can handle up to 72 constituencies from a single remote polling booth and the remote e-voting machine will be a standalone device which does not need connectivity to operate. According to the EC, the voters' inability to vote due to internal migration is a vital issue that needed to be addressed. This invention would improve voter turnout and ensure the participation of migrants in elections. If implemented correctly, migrant voters need not travel to their home district to exercise their voting rights. The Representation of the People Act, The Conduct of Election Rules and The Registration of Electors Rules will need to be amended to introduce remote voting, the EC's statement pointed out. The poll panel said, "Migrants are unwilling to vote at their place of work for various reasons such as not having enough social and emotional connections with the issues of the area of migration, unwillingness to get their names deleted in an electoral roll of their native constituencies as they have permanent residence or property, etc." Eradicating such issues is the primary objective of having these RVMs. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said, "After focusing on youth and urban apathy, remote voting will be a transformational initiative for strengthening participation in electoral democracy." A statement issued by the commission implied that, with the goal of finding a technological solution that is credible, accessible, and acceptable to all stakeholders, the poll panel has examined the possibility of using a modified version of the time-tested model of M3 (Mark 3) EVMs, which will enable voting at remote polling stations - polling stations outside the domestic migrants' home constituency.

PROTEST



Ranchi: Security personnel detain contractual health workers protesting over their demand for regularisation of their jobs, in Ranchi, Monday, Jan. 16.

Economic Instability In Neighbouring Countries Is Worrying For India

K R SUDHAMAN



World Bank and International Monetary Fund might be gung ho about Indian economy, but emerging geo political situation in the neighbouring countries is a major source of concern and tottering economies in the sub-continent make the situation worse. India might be in a bright spot in otherwise sagging and recessionary global economy but neighbours, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar are virtually bankrupt and heading towards severe debt trap. The economic situation in Bangladesh and Maldives is not that comfortable and facing severe downside risks. Coupled with this, the rapidly slowing Chinese economy with the fallout of uncontrolled Covid situation, raise several difficult questions to Indian policy planners. The geopolitical situation emerging from Sino-Indian stand-off on the line of actual control particularly in Galwan and Tawang raise several issues. The Chinese belligerence on the Indian borders notwithstanding, the stand-off between US and China over Taiwan made things worse. The internal strife due to agitating masses over various issues including lockdown, need to democratize Chinese polity, highhandedness of officials makes the geopolitical situation very difficult. A cold war-like situation between India and China can only lead to hike in defence expenditure at the cost of development. The emerging situation in Pakistan is most worrying. There is political instability, foreign ex-

change reserves have dipped to \$4.5 billion, just enough for 10 days imports. More dangerous is the virtual civil war in FATA, Kyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan with TTP's all out war against Pakistan establishment. The militant group has taken virtual control in many of these areas and Pakistan army is having a tough time in dealing with the guerrillas. The TTP terrorists were trained by ISI and they are now going all out against ISI and Pak armed forces. What former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton once told Pakistan that "if snakes are bred in the backyard, it will come to bite you one day" appears to have come true now. Pakistan is in a virtual mess - politically and economically. Pak has no money now to sustain an all out fight against TTP. Pakistan is selling whatever ammunitions it has to Ukraine at the behest of US as well. The internal strife in Pakistan is in a way good for India as it would keep them engaged and refrain from misadventure along the Indian borders at their plate being full at the moment. But an unstable Pakistan with tottering economy and uncontrolled terrorism unleashed by TTP could pose a headache for India. Afghanistan and TTP never recognized Durand line that artificially divides nationalist pashtoons and Afghanistan-Pakistan. The Baloch never integrated with Pakistan right from independence and they too are demanding separation. Baloch separatist movement has now joined hands with TTP, which has made the situation far more worse. There are also widespread protests in Pakistan occupied Kashmir to merge with India because of high handedness of Pakistan establishment and new laws that are discriminatory to them. While Gilgit-Baltistan wants to merge with Ladakh, POK wants to merge with Jammu and Kashmir. These developments may have some spill-over effect on India, which has to ensure its borders re-

main secure. India could not afford to lower its guard. Sri Lankan economy is already in doldrums and thanks to the largesse of India, the island republic has managed to keep its head above water. One good thing that has happened is the move to reduce the size of its armed forces in a phased manner. This will reduce the burden on the exchequer. This is a welcome development as it does not require that huge army, that too with militancy being virtually eliminated. Pakistan too can draw lessons from Sri Lanka to streamline its expenses by reducing the unwieldy strength of 600,000 men in its armed forces in a phased manner. The situation may not be ripe at the moment with Pakistan's western borders not secure. But it could be suggestion for action in the medium term as such a large army had led to corruption and huge drain on its resources. One of the major cause of economic concern in Myanmar too is the large and unwieldy armed forces. Myanmar has been mostly ruled by military junta, which commits frequent political atrocities to remain in power. The movement against the military junta has gained momentum. Myanmar military establishment has no time to look after economic needs. The recent elections in Nepal had resulted in communists capturing power in the landlocked country. Nepal has been traditionally friendly to India, but that situation is changing rapidly now Nepal's Communist government led by Prime Minister Prachanda is widely expected to dance to the tune of China and already there are proposals to give new thrust to the stalled Chinese BRI project. Also Prachanda is looking for strengthening further economic relations with China which shares a long border in Nepal's north. Culturally, Nepalese are very close to India and even today recruitment is made for Indian Army's Gorkha regiment. Nepal also shares a long border with India on the

southern side in particular. This border is very porous and is widely used for smuggling drugs and counterfeit notes from Pakistan. Pakistan's ISI have set up several sleeper cells along the UP border using mainly Bangladeshi refugees. These are matter of concern but Indian authorities, aware of this problem are taking actions to check the menace. There may not be significant geopolitical concerns from Bangladesh. But its slowing economy particularly after covid is matter of concern. The increasing Chinese presence the country too needed to be watched carefully. The political situation is also volatile in view of the coming general elections in 2024 and the hard campaigning by the anti-India opposition party BNP to unseat Awami League. In sum, the emerging geo-political and economic situation in countries surrounding India in the sub-continent is certainly a matter of concern for India. Political instability and sagging economies surrounding India needed to be handled deftly so that spill-over effect is minimized. So far India has played its cards well, diplomatically, politically and economically. It has extended support to countries like Sri Lanka and a bailout is happening there. Nepal could turn out to be a headache in the face of emerging political situation, which needed to be handled carefully. Pakistan however is major source of worry and some hawks there may indulge in some misadventure to divert attention of the local population. There is not only economic woes, the frequent attacks by TTP terrorists have made life insecure there. The inflation is now around 24 per cent and one roti costs Rs 25 Pakistani rupee there. There is widespread food shortage as well particularly after the unprecedented and widespread floods in KPK area and Balochistan. Pakistan has also run out of fuel reserves and the foreign exchange is at its lowest level.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appalling find outs from NASA

According to a NASA analysis, the Earth's average surface temperature in 2022 was the fifth warmest year compared to last six decades. According to researchers from NASA's; global temperatures in 2022 were about 1 degrees Celsius higher than the average for the baseline period continuing the planet's long-term warming trend. This warming trend is alarming. The effects of our changing climate are already being felt: Cyclones are becoming more powerful, forest fires are getting worse, droughts are wreaking havoc, and sea levels are rising especially in Asia. Since the start of modern recordkeeping in 1880 by NASA, the last nine years have been the warmest on record. The simple reason for the warming trend is that human activities continue to pump enormous amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Following a brief decline in 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, human-caused greenhouse gas emissions have increased as per reports. Therefore stringent actions needed around the globe to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for top notch future.

Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

Mediation by India in Ukraine Russian war

Reports are emanating from USA that India may meditate in Ukraine Russian war and if it happens so it will a repetition of the previous history as in Indo Pak war of 1965 in which Russia had mediated and Tashkand agreement was signed but the mystery still exists about the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri. Presently India is at epicenter of international developments due to positive and constructive role played by India. Even in Pakistan Indian foreign policy is appreciated by various political parties. Due to turmoil in Sri Lanka India was at doorstep of that country by providing humanitarian aid. WHO highly appreciated Indian government for providing the COVID vaccines to the various countries on humanitarian grounds. Presently in foreign policy of India old era of Jawaharlal Nehru is developing when India was at forefront of international developments. Due to Ukraine war there was shortage of wheat in world market and India exported wheat to many countries but when report came in that due to climate change as well as due to floods in various parts of the country there are chances of fall of the production in the country then immediately ban was imposed on export of wheat by India. Though there was criticism of this step of the country but government did not care about it and followed the free and independent foreign policy which is strength of the country irrespective of this which party is in power as it is a continuous process of the foreign policy.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

5 days week Banking - need of the hour



Vinod Chandrasekhar Dixit

The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) have decided to go on two-day strike from January 30 demanding a five-day working week for bank staff, among others. Apart from 5 day week, the UFBU is also demanding immediate commencement of negotiations on the charter of demands for wage revision, updating of pension for retirees and resolution of residual issues like

update of pension, immediate start of negotiations on charter of demands for wage revision and adequate recruitment in all cadres, among others. As per reports, the united Forum of Bank Unions has been trying for the last 28 months to resolve the remaining issues, however, no positive response was given by the Indian Banks' Association. The 11th wage settlement of bank employees occurred on November 11, 2020, between the Indian Banks' Association and the United Forum of Bank Unions, the umbrella body of trade unions in the banking sector. Some of the issues related to the agreement, in which a 5-day week in banks, stagnation increment is not given to banks by the Indian Banks Association, besides promotion and salary, pension fixation issues etc. Two Saturdays (2nd and 4th) were declared off in 10th bipartite settlement, signed on the 25 May 2015. This was

termed as a great achievement by bank unions, who have been asking for five-day week. Before two Saturdays off, all Saturdays were half day working, as such, technically no benefit was passed on in terms of working hours. The demand of bank employees' is not unreasonable because Central Government and most State Government offices work only five days. A five-day week is already available in the international banking system. It is also available here - the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), central and state governments, and companies in the public sector work for (only) five days a week. The working conditions in the Banks have been strenuous. Poor infrastructure, lack of adequate staff has made the officers work till late in the night, resulting in poor health, huge pressure on the officers, which culminates in serious work-leisure mismatches, life style diseases and of late, repeat-

ed acts of suicides being committed by the officers of the Banks. With the advancement of technology, most of the transactions can be processed without physically visiting branches. Since 2015, the banks have developed various alternative delivery channels for delivery of various services and most of the services like, fund transfers, bank statements, cheque book requests, loan applications, cash withdrawal, transaction enquiry, account opening, life certificates etc. are available online without human intervention. In a letter to the Indian Banks' Association, the All India Bank Employees' Association has proposed that working hours per day may be increased by 30 minutes and the present working hours may be advanced by 30 minutes in the morning. It has also proposed increasing the existing customer service hours/non-cash transaction

banking hours by 30 minutes. According to AIBOC, India is in the midst of digital revolution. As per experts, India is set to leapfrog many advanced countries in this space. Customers in the country are leaning towards digital adoption of financial services faster than previous estimates. There will be a paradigm shift in banking transactions from the brick and mortar banking to digital transactions concept. It is quite evident that the work pressure in the banking industry is the highest in the country and due to this branch banking should be done only during weekdays, keeping in mind the health of employees and their ability to perform. Having five days a week will lead to higher productivity and improve the efficiency of bank employees. Don't we think, 5 days week will also be a positive step in the direction of Digital India in conformity with PM's vision?

BRIEF

NFRA

New Delhi: In a first of its kind move aimed at improving audit quality, the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) on Monday proposed introducing annual transparency reports requirement for audit firms. The watchdog has come out with draft requirements to be followed by auditors and audit firms for preparing Annual Transparency Reports (ATRs). According to NFRA, the effort is aimed at enhancing the transparency about management and governance of audit firms and their internal policy framework to ensure high quality audits and preventing conflict of interest by maintaining independence.

USISPF

New Delhi: Quad+, a journal dedicated to the intersection of geopolitics and technology, has been launched by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). The journal will have a special focus on understanding and analyzing the implications of the Quad, the new strategic coalition between the United States, India, Australia, and Japan.

Maruti Suzuki

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India on Monday said it has hiked prices of its vehicles across models by about 1.1 per cent. This is the second price hike that the carmaker is undertaking in the ongoing fiscal year, after increasing it in April 2022. In December last year, the company had said it would hike prices of its vehicles to offset the impact of rising input costs and make provisions to update the model range to conform to stricter emission norms which will kick in from April 2023. "An estimated weighted average of increase across models stands at around 1.1 per cent."

Wipro shares climb

New Delhi: Shares of Wipro on Monday climbed nearly 2 per cent in early trade after the company reported a better-than-expected 2.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit for the December 2022 quarter. The stock gained 1.81 per cent to Rs 400.80 apiece on the BSE. At the NSE, it climbed 1.80 per cent to Rs 401 apiece. Wipro Ltd on Friday reported a better-than-expected 2.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit for the December 2022 quarter to Rs 3,053 crore and exuded optimism about "strong" bookings for the fourth quarter despite global headwinds.

WPI inflation

New Delhi: The wholesale price-based inflation declined to 4.95 per cent in December 2022, mainly due to fall in prices of food articles and crude petroleum. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was 5.85 per cent in November 2022 and 14.27 per cent in December 2021. Inflation in food articles was (-)1.25 per cent, while in fuel and power it was 18.09 per cent during December 2022.

Indian delicacies add fragrant colours to snow-white Davos



The India Lounge: This will be the focal point for all G2B and B2B networking and engagements. The lounge will showcase India's growth story, its transforming infrastructure landscape, rising digitalisation and growing startup ecosystem and the country's credentials as a top investment destination.

Davos, Jan 16 (PTI):

As a fresh round of snowfall made this Alpine resort town whiter, fragrance of Indian delicacies could be felt all over the main Promenade street of

Europe's highest habitat. Dotted the street, a number of Indian pavilions readied themselves with a wide range of foods and drinks for the five days of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting be-

ginning Monday.

Topping the charts, the famous India Lounge was seen buzzing with visitors even as main activities there would begin only on Tuesday. Similar was the case with pavilions of Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, as also those of several Indian companies including TCS, HCL Tech and Wipro.

More than Indians, who were also seen enjoying their pizza and fondue, foreigners appeared more keen on samosas, kachoris, tikkas and biryanis, as also various Indian flavours of tea and coffee.

Special chefs have been arranged for the platters being served with most of the food ingredients being sourced directly from India.

Reliance suspends gas auction after change in marketing rules

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner bp plc on Monday suspended a planned auction for the sale of natural gas from their eastern offshore KG-D6 block after the government altered marketing rules to cap margins.

In a notice, Reliance and its partner BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd (BPEAL) said the auction has been suspended indefinitely.

E-bidding for the sale of 6 million standard cubic meters per day of gas was originally planned for January 18 but was later pushed back first to January 19 and then to January 24.

On January 13, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas published new rules for the sale and resale of gas produced from discoveries in deep sea, ultra-deep water

and high pressure-high temperature areas with marketing and pricing freedom. It required bidders to state upfront if they were purchasing the gas through the auction for 'own use as end consumers (including for use of their group entities) or as a trader.'

While end consumers were allowed to resell any unconsumed gas, traders participating in the auction were allowed to resell subject to a maximum trading margin of Rs 200 per thousand cubic meters.

"In any situation, which may require proportionate distribution of the gas offered under the bidding process, the contractor (company selling the gas) shall offer gas to bidders belonging to CNG (transport)/PNG(domestic) sector, fertilizer, LPG and power sector in that

order," the ministry said, adding any leftover gas shall be offered to other bidders.

In the auction that Reliance-bp launched on December 29, 2022, the gas was intended for sale to end consumers who were not permitted to resell any unconsumed gas. Also, there was no clarity on the participation of traders.

"It is hereby notified that the current bidding process is suspended till further notice," the two firms said in a notice on Monday.

It did not give the reason for the suspension but industry sources said the suspension was linked to the new rules brought by the government.

The two partners invited bids for the sale of 6 mmscmd, or a third of the volumes being produced at KG-D6, starting February

TOURISTS AT SOLANG VALLEY



Tourists visit at Solang Valley, in Manali, Monday, Jan. 16.

Tripura govt, NTPC REL ink pact for development of green energy projects



NTPC Renewable Energy Limited

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

The government of Tripura and NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL) have signed an agreement for development of renewable energy projects in the northeastern state.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and senior officials of NTPC Ltd in the national capital on Monday, an official statement said.

"NTPC REL signed an MoU with the government

of Tripura on 16-01-2023 for development of renewable energy projects in Tripura," it said.

The agreement aims to develop large-sized renewable energy projects in Tripura and shall help the state in meeting its clean energy commitments.

Under the MoU, floating and ground mounted renewable energy projects will be developed in the state.

Tripura power secretary Brijesh Pandey, NTPC Ltd Director (Commercial) C K Mondal, NTPC Director (Finance) J Srinivasan, and NTPC REL's CEO Mohit Bhargava were present at the event.

Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDA) is the nodal agency for implementing renewable energy projects in Tripura.

Auto Expo 2023 - Components Show sees largest-ever footfall: CII



New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

The Auto Expo 2023 - Components Show ended on Sunday with the largest ever footfall of 1,22,500 business delegates from 65 countries, CII said.

The event had pavilions from Japan and South Korea, among other countries. "The 800 plus exhibitors from

15 countries with six country pavilions from France, Germany, Japan, Poland, South Korea, and the UK, witnessed packed stalls with serious visitors from India and overseas during the four-day exhibition at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi," said.

The expo was organised jointly by Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA), CII, and Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) from January 12-15.

There were over 1,400 new products on display which were the special attraction among the visitors at this year's expo.

Some of the innovations and futuristic products on display included low weight tailgate and sunroof, tyre changing attachment for EVs, energy-efficient power control units, nano-catalyst for coating CDPF, friction motor cooling system, semi-solid li-ion cell, etc.

The expo was organised jointly by Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA), CII, and Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) from January 12-15.

Tata Motors, Kia, Hyundai expect sales momentum to continue in 2023

Greater Noida, Jan 16 (PTI):

Tata Motors, Kia India and Hyundai are expecting sales momentum to continue this year as well after witnessing robust growth in dispatches to dealers in the last year while pressure remains of a high base effect, inflation and higher interest costs.

Tata Motors, which crossed five lakh cumulative wholesale mark in 2022, is hopeful of robust performance this year on the back of new launches as well as better traction for its internal combustion engine models, electric vehicles and CNG trims.

"It (sales growth) will be steep, hopefully, it will not be as steep as it was because the denominator

used to be lower, now it is becoming higher," Tata Motors Managing Director - Passenger Vehicle and Electric Vehicles Shailesh Chandra told PTI in an interaction.

When asked if the sales growth would be in single or double digits, he said: "Double digit penetration is what we are looking at." On electric vehicle sales, which touched close to 43,000 units last year, he noted that it is bound to increase with new products expected to hit the market.

"Absolutely, it has to. If we are adding a new product completely it should. That is the intention," he noted when asked if the company expects an increase in EV sales.

Tata Motors' passenger

vehicle sales outpaced industry growth last year to cross the five lakh units mark.

"Obviously, the reason for this significant growth is the strengthening of our brand ... If you talk about Tata cars, these are synonymous with safety. And that is one big change that has come, the perception of the Tata brand," Chandra said.

Second is the contemporariness of the vehicles, he added.

"And a big change that we have brought in the nation not only for our brand is the green mobility. And that had a positive rub-off on the entire brand on the ICE side," Chandra said.

Kia India VP and Head-Sales & Marketing Hardeep Singh Brar said

the company expects to outpace the industry growth this year as well.

"Last year, we grew by almost 40 per cent whereas the industry growth was about 23 per cent and we also saw our market share increase to 6.7 per cent from 5.9 per cent in 2021," he said.

He noted that the company expects headwinds in the industry because of inflation, higher interest costs in 2023.

"So we think 5 per cent would be a pretty good estimate from an overall industry perspective (in terms of growth)...we have grown much more than industry. So yes, we would like to grow more than that...we would still like to hit at least double digit or more than that," Brar said.

Around 58 pc builders expect housing prices to rise further in 2023

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

Around 58 per cent of developers expect housing prices to increase this year because of rise in input costs, while 32 per cent builders feel it will remain stable, according to a survey. According to the 'Real Estate Developers Sentiment Survey', by Realtors apex body CREDAI, real estate consultant Colliers India and property research firm Liases Foras, 43 per cent of developers expect residential demand to remain stable in 2023, while 31 per cent feel the demand would increase up to 25 per cent. As many as 341 real estate developers from various parts of the country participated in the joint survey conducted



during the last two months. "An overwhelming 58 per cent of the developers feel that housing prices are likely to rise in 2023 amidst volatile input costs, economic uncertainties and sustained inflation rates," the report said.

However, the survey revealed that about 32 per cent of the developers be-

lieve that the prices will remain stable in 2023.

Housing prices have been on the rise over the last few quarters, led by robust housing demand as well as rise in input costs, the report said.

The survey report also showed that 43 per cent of developers saw a 10-20 per cent rise in project costs in

2022 amidst rising input costs. As per the survey, the developers want 'ease of doing business' from the government.

"Homebuyers remain enthused about purchasing homes, despite rising interest rates," Colliers India CEO Ramesh Nair said. Real estate developers too are focusing on launching projects that are aligned as per the needs of the homebuyers, Nair said, adding that builders are also focusing on completing their pending projects and bringing in demand-led supply.

The survey findings showed that almost half (46 per cent) of the developers believe that a probable recession will have a moderate impact on their business.

NHAI says no data available about faulty FASTags, penalties collected from users at toll plazas

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

State-owned NHAI has no information about faulty FASTags and the penalties collected from motorists in case their FASTags are non-functional at highway toll plazas.

In case a motorist does not have a FASTag or it is non-functional, then the person has to pay double the toll charges at toll plazas. According to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), more than 6 crore FASTags have been issued as on October 31, 2022.

However, it has no information about the number of faulty FASTag cases and the total amount of penalty collected from users despite having their vehicles fitted with the Radio Frequency

Identification (RFID) tag. In response to RTI queries about the number of faulty FASTag cases and the amount of penalties collected from the users for non-functional FASTags, NHAI said, "no such data is available".

"Total no. of 60,277,364 FASTags have been issued till 31.10.2022," it said in response to an application filed by PTI under the Right to Information Act.

A FASTag allows a user to pay the highway fee electronically without having to stop at the toll collection booths set up by the highway operators.

Since February 16, 2021, the government has made FASTag mandatory for all private as well as commercial vehicles.

As per rules, vehicles that do not have a valid or functional FASTag must

pay double the toll charge as penalty. On whether any penal action has been taken against any FASTag issuing agency for faulty FASTag, NHAI said, "no such data is available".

"Total toll collection through FASTag since 16.02.2021 to 16.04.2022 as per NPCI data for NHAI fee plaza is Rs 39,118.15 crore," said the RTI reply.

The total toll collection for NHAI fee plaza during FY22 stood at Rs 34,535 crore, the RTI reply said, citing data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Currently, a FASTag is issued by 24 banks. There are complaints from users that FASTags sometime do not function properly at toll plazas as a result of which they have to pay double the toll charges.

Selena reacts to body shaming comments after her Golden Globes appearance

Singer-actress Selena Gomez appeared to react to her online critics with a laugh. After attending the 2023 Golden Globes, the 'Only Murders in the Building' star apparently received comments from internet users regarding her physical appearance while posing for the cameras at the event.

Wearing a show-stopping Valentino design featuring a velvet column gown with a high-slit and statement puff sleeves with a long train, Gomez, 30, showed up at the Beverly Hills Hotel after being nominated for best performance by an actress in a television series, comedy or musical for her role of Mabel Mora in the Hulu series, reports People magazine.

Although she did not score a trophy for the category, the singer may have won the internet by seemingly responding to users who left unpleasant comments about her body after pictures and clips of her at the event were shared online. According to People, in a recorded Instagram Live video reposted via Pop News Daily account on TikTok, Gomez addressed the critics while chatting with her 9-year-old sister, Gracie Elliott Teefey. "I'm a little bit big right now because I enjoyed myself during the holidays," she told her followers before turning her head to Gracie, asking for her opinion, "Right?"

After Gracie appeared to agree with the singer, Gomez later began to burst into laughter. Earlier this week, Gomez - who has long had a complicated relationship with social media and even deleted it from her phone in 2019 - teased her return to Instagram.



Dino Morea to make Telugu debut with some 'raw, brutal action' in 'Agent'

Actor Dino Morea, who is known for films like 'Raaz' and web series such as 'Hostages' and 'Tandav', feels that he is in the most interesting phase of his career and is set to make his foray in Telugu cinema with Surrender Reddy's spy thriller titled 'Agent' in which he will play the antagonist.

The film will see him pulling off some A-grade action sequences.

Talking about his penchant for action sequences, Dino said: "In the earlier phase of my career, filmmakers only perceived me as this sweet, good-looking boy next door. I was offered to play a romantic hero, but never got an opportunity to do an all-out action film. I have a knack for action as I am fit and flexible, but no one has ever tapped that part of my personality. In 'Agent', I will get to do some raw, brutal action and I'm excited about that."

Shedding light on his look and character in the film, he added: "I play an



agent who's gone rogue. He's quite a crazy guy, and an anti-hero. I am flaunting long hair and a beard.

It has been nearly three years since I have seen my face without any facial hair. I grew my hair and beard for 'The Empire' and haven't cut it since then."

When asked if he enjoys playing characters with grey shades, he shared: "There's a certain madness you can bring to a negative character and the audience loves watching that. Even as a kid, when I watched James Bond movies, I remembered the villains more than the protagonist. Look at The Dark Knight, the character of 'The Joker' is unforgettable in that film."

While Dino has been a part of South films like the Tamil film 'Kandukondain' and Kannada film 'Julie', with 'Agent', he will make his debut in Telugu cinema.

"They are making fantastic movies. We all know that some of their films have been huge blockbusters. I am working with director Surrender Reddy, who has already made some highly successful films."

Sonam Kapoor tweets about pollution in Mumbai, evokes varied reactions



Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor complained about pollution due to construction work in Mumbai and said that it is 'torturous' to drive in the city.

She mentioned in her tweet that she was travelling from her house in Juhu to Bandra bandstand but it took really long to reach to her destination.

She tweeted: "It's torturous to drive through Mumbai. It's taken me an hour to reach the bandstand from Juhu. Too much construction and digging everywhere. Pollution is through the roof. What's going on."

Some social media users said she was right, but many criticised her as well.

One user commented: "Have you even SEEN outside? We can't even breathe or open windows. It's THAT BAD. VISIBLE & invisible pollution are two different levels of devastation. If she's trying to make a good change, support."

Another said: "Yes, why are they making the Metro and roads for better infrastructure of common people? They should send common people packing in overcrowded local trains, so rich people can enjoy their luxury drives."

But most weren't as critical. Sharing Sonam's thoughts, one user commented: "Glad to see @sonamakapoor speak honestly. The city with the worst roads to add to the above. People of influence, please bring more attention to this topic."

Sonam is all set for her next project, 'Blind', in which she is playing a visually challenged cop. The movie, directed by Shome Makhija, will also star Purab Kohli, Vinay Pathak and Lillete Dubey in prominent roles.

Ram Charan suffered second degree ligament tear before 'Naatu Naatu' shoot

'RRR' star Ram Charan, whose historical fiction film bagged two awards yet again at the Critics' Choice Awards on Monday, revealed that he had a second degree ligament tear before he shot for the Golden Globe winning song 'Naatu Naatu'.

Sharing his experience whilst filming for the song in Ukraine, Ram stated: "I had an injury on the set, off the camera. I had a ligament tear, my ACL tore. It was a second degree tear. I was off the set for three months."

He further told Gold Derby: "I was doing rehab, getting ready, and right after I came back we went straight to Ukraine to shoot the 'Naatu Naatu' song. I was scared to death whether I could pull it off."

In relation to the script of RRR he said: "I felt the sense of a roller coaster ride and different genres coming together. It was action, it was drama, it was a bit of thriller and musical. It was so difficult for him to bring so many genres together and make it convincing and hit it out of the park like this."

He also said that he is a big admirer of Hollywood stars Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise. "I never missed any Brad and Tom films," he admitted. "They were somebody I looked up to



when I was young. Seeing them again in 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' and 'Top Gun: Maverick', man, they don't age. They are the same. Tom, for 38 years he looks the same and he's only getting better and keeping us so close to him as fans."

Vijay Sethupathi says Hindi audience doesn't take him seriously

Tamil superstar Vijay Sethupathi, who will be soon seen essaying the role of a cop in the upcoming streaming series 'Farzi', took a dig at the Hindi-language audience, saying he isn't taken seriously until he works with the big talents of the Hindi film industry.

The actor, who has cultivated a new fan base and audience, courtesy of OTT and his films such as 'Super Deluxe', 'Vikram Vedha', '96' or the more recent 'Vikram', is working with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan in the Atlee Kumar's film 'Jawaan' and with Katrina Kaif in 'Merry Christmas'.

Taking a subtle dig, the actor said, "Whoever asks me that I am doing a Hindi project, I have to say I am working with Shahid then only they say, 'oh wow, okay'."

He added: "So, I have to say I am working with Shah Rukh sir, I am working with Katrina Kaif, then only they respect me. So, it depends on the artist who I'm working with."

'Farzi', which marks Vijay Sethupathi's foray into the streaming space, has been created and helmed by Raj & DK of 'The Family Man' fame. But Sethupathi refuses to call it a debut in streaming space. "I don't know how to say it's a debut because I don't see it as a debut. In 2010, I debuted as a hero. It's been 12 years. I did about 55 films. It's like I am going back as a kid again, so I don't think it's a debut," Sethupathi said.



Disha Thakur talks about playing Chandni in 'Main Monica'

Disha Thakur, who is known for "Three Auspicious Hours", "Out of Love", and "Evening Shadows", is currently part of the new web series "Main Monica".

The actor, who will play the role of Chandni, feels her career is going through a great phase with "Main Monica" coming her way immediately after her last series "Garmi".

Talking about working on the series, its title, and how she prepared for her role, she says: "This story is all about the excitement and fun that the characters in the show go



through. As far as the uniqueness of the title is concerned, Monica has a seductive and playful

sound to it and it gets even better when the character charmingly declares what becoming Monica is all about. "Explaining the kind of character Chandni is, Disha says that she fell in love with the name in the first place.

"I loved how there are so many songs already dedicated to Chandni in Bollywood and somehow it just made Chandni more endearing to me. My character is a struggling actress in Mumbai, who dances at a bar to make ends meet. She comes from a village in Maharashtra but has made Mumbai her home."

"Although she faces the

struggles of living in the city and making her dreams come true, there is a lot of grit and spunk in her. I relate to her spirit of not giving in to troubles. Her life takes a turn when she meets Rajveer and falls for him. I loved playing this role and it will always be super special to me," she said.

About the kind of prep that went into playing this role, Disha adds: "Honestly, I came on board about two days before the shoot began, so I didn't have any time to prepare the way I would have wanted to. I did my own bit by first watching whatever movies I could.

CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**
- Robbins and Allen
 - Peak
 - Make holy
 - India's continent
 - Earth's satellite
 - Cowboys' contest
 - Scrape roughly
 - Between 40 and 60 (hyph.)
 - Buddy
 - Departed
 - Diner patrons
 - Locale
 - Reckless
 - Parent's sister
 - Weight
 - English tavern
 - House locations
 - Middling (hyph.)
 - Reporter ____ Lane
 - Discussion group
 - Prayer response
 - Quality of sound
 - Butt in
 - Association (abbr.)
- DOWN**
- Canvas covers
 - Singer ____ Hayes
 - Deceiving
 - Weaken
 - Munitions, for short
 - Dime, for one
 - Manner
 - Conclusion
 - Chicken part
 - Reluctant
 - Brink
 - Prophet
 - Lays turf
 - Fall faller
 - Heredity unit
 - Hospital employee
 - Bowler's button
 - Recipe abbr.
 - Hair coloring
 - Small, yappy dog
 - Customer
 - Fido's treat
 - Singing voice
 - Entrance
 - Holy person
 - Less hazardous
 - Allow
 - Affluent
 - Actress ____ Richards
 - Between ports
 - Bath powders
 - Glossy fabric
 - Practices boxing
 - Unlatch
 - Guitar device
 - Threesome
 - Will beneficiary
 - Unfasten
 - Stride
 - Atlas entry
 - Greek letter



Women's U-19 T20 World Cup

Shafali, Sehrawat's blitzkrieg help India crush UAE

Benoni (SA), Jan 16 (PTD):



Shweta Sehrawat celebrates her half-century with partner Richa Ghosh.

Skipper Shafali Verma cracked a blistering 78 while opener Shweta Sehrawat sparked with an unbeaten 74 as India outplayed UAE by 122 runs in the inaugural Women's U-19 T20 World Cup here on Monday.

Shafali (78 off 34 balls) was at her destructive best and joined forces with an equally belligerent Sehrawat (74 not out off 49 deliveries) before Richa Ghosh smacked a 29-ball 49 to help India post an imposing 219 for three at Willowmoore Park.

The Indian bowlers then restricted UAE to 97 for five, the result showing the gulf between the two sides. With the win, India have consolidated their top spot in Group D.

Invited to bat, Shafali, who has already played over 70 international matches for the senior team, including 51 T20Is, and Sehrawat, stitched a 111-run stand for the first wicket. Sehrawat made her intentions clear from the first over, and after playing two dots, she smacked three boundaries

to plunder 12 runs.

Shafali followed suit in the next over as she also hit three fours. The 18-year-old got the first maximum of the Indian in-

nings in the fifth over.

Shafali was the aggressor in the partnership as she toyed with the opposition, hitting boundaries at will. She brought up her

fifty in style with a four.

The UAE bowlers seemed clueless as Shafali sent the ball to the fence 12 times and over it four times in her fiery 34-ball innings. After hitting three sixes and a four in a span of five balls, Shafali's blazing knock came to an end as she was caught at long-off.

Sehrawat, who remained unbeaten on 92 in the previous game, played the role of sheet anchor to perfection. She brought up her second successive half-century and looked in complete control.

Misfields and dropped catches only compounded UAE's woes as they gave as many as four reprieves to Richa, who was promoted to number three.

Chasing a 200-plus target, UAE openers looked up to the challenge as Theertha Satish found the boundary four times in the first over.

However, the charge was shortlived as Shabnam MD dismissed her in the fifth ball. Fellow opener Lavanya Keny scored a painstakingly slow 54-ball 24 but UAE never seemed in contention.

Viacom 18 bags media rights for Women's IPL for 951 crore

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD):



The BCCI on Monday announced that Viacom 18 have grabbed the media rights for the upcoming Women's IPL for a whopping Rs 951 crore for five years after pipping other bidders, including Disney Star and Sony, in a closed-bid auction.

The auction for the T20 league was conducted by the cricket board in Mumbai on Monday. The inaugural Women's IPL is likely to begin in the first week of March. Five teams will compete and all the matches will be held in Mumbai.

The global rights comprise three categories - linear (TV), digital and combined (TV and digital) and Viacom 18 successfully bid for the combined rights.

In the men's IPL, separate rights are sold across regions. "Women's cricket has been on the up since a few years and the recently concluded bilateral series against Australia is a great testament to how popular women's cricket has become in India," BCCI president Roger Binny said in a release issued by the board.

"It was only apt to get our own women's T20 league and give the fans more of women's cricket."

According to BCCI secretary Jay Shah, the fee per match will come to Rs 7.09 crore for the next five years. "The broadcasters play a key role in taking the game to a wider audience and their active interest in the league is a clear indication that the Women's Indian Premier League is headed in the right direction. The per-match valuation of Rs INR 7.09 crore is something that has never previously been registered for a women's game," Shah said.

"I congratulate Viacom18 for securing both the TV and digital rights with a

combined bid of INR 951 crores and welcome them on Board. The journey has well and truly started and we will take another major step this month when the five franchises are announced."

Viacom18 had won the IPL digital rights for Rs 23,758 crore while Disney Star had retained the TV rights for Rs 23,575 crore for a five-year period starting 2023 during a three-day auction held in June, 2022.

IPL governing council chairman Arun Singh Dhimal said: "The faith of all our bidders for this process also testifies that they see value in investing in this property which will only be growing with each

passing year. "Women's cricket has shown immense growth in the past few years and our own T20 league, it only solidifies our approach towards women's cricket and the potential it has for growth in India."

Some of the country's biggest stars in the women's game, such as national team skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and senior opener Smriti Mandhana, lauded the BCCI after the big announcement.

"Huge congratulations to Viacom18 and @BCCI, @JayShah for a historic day in women's cricket. Today marks a new era where our women cricketers will get the platform they deserve to thrive, excel and develop on the global stage. I'm sure you'll be mesmerized by the talent we have!" Harmanpreet tweeted.

Mandhana said, "Today's a day that every Indian women cricketer will remember. The #WIPL is finally taking shape. @BCCI, @JayShah and all those involved deserve huge praise. Women's cricket will go to the next level with this global stage provided. Come on girls, it's all yours for the taking!"

IPL disappointment last year behind my success in white-ball cricket in new year: Siraj

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 16 (PTD):



India pacer Mohammed Siraj has said the disappointment of not being able to perform in the previous edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) pushed him to focus more on white-ball cricket, which is paying rich dividends now.

The 28-year-old bowler returned with superb figures of 4 for 32 from his 10 overs to bundle out Sri Lanka for 73 in 22 overs as India won the match by a massive 317 runs here on Sunday.

Siraj, who was retained by Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) ahead of the 2022 season, had only nine wickets in 15 matches with an economy of more than 10 runs per over. Siraj said the transformation has come about because he started focussing on the execution of line and length in white-ball cricket following the 2022 IPL disap-

pointment.

"When the IPL season went bad for me, I started focussing on white-ball cricket. I worked on it and grew in confidence. I stopped worrying about how my performance would go which was not the case earlier. I started focussing only on execution of line and length."

Kohli credits throwdown specialists for making 'big difference' to his batting

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 16 (PTD):



Indian run-machine Virat Kohli has credited the team's throwdown trio of D Raghvendra, Nuwan Senewiratne and Dayanand Garani for making a "big difference" to his batting.

The throwdown specialists use a sidearm, a cricketing equipment in the shape of a long spoon, to hurl the ball at high speed (in the range of 140-150kmph) to test the batters at nets.

"All three of them have given us world-class practice every time we play. They challenge us in the nets like any 145 or 150kmph pace bowlers. They always try to get us out and make sure that they test us regularly," Kohli told young Indian opener Shubman Gill in an interaction on BCCI.tv after the third and final ODI against Sri Lanka here.

"At times, it feels very intense. For me that has been the difference in my career, to be very honest... From where I was as a cricketer before I started

getting this kind of practice to where I am today."

Karnataka's Raghvendra, who is fondly known as 'Raghu' joined the BCCI from the

National Cricket Academy, and was the first to join Team India. He would regularly give throwdowns to batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar and former

Indian captain MS Dhoni.

India then hired left-handed Sri Lankan Senewiratne in 2018 to help them prepare for left-arm pacers.

A civic volunteer in Kolkata Police, Dayanand, who was with Kings XI Punjab, was roped in by Team India after Raghu tested positive for COVID-19 in 2020 and has become a permanent support staff since then.

"A lot of credit has to go to these guys, who have given us practice regularly and their contribution has been unbelievable. You guys should remember their names and faces because, behind our success, a lot of effort has been put in by these guys," Kohli said. Gill, who was interviewing Kohli, was quick to add: "These three combined would have had 1200 to 1500 wickets. They prepare us for all kinds of conditions heading into the match."

India thrashed Sri Lanka by 317 runs in the final ODI to sweep the series 3-0, with Kohli notching two hundreds from three matches.

Nadal struggles at times during 4-set win at Australian Open

Melbourne, Jan 16 (AP):



Rafael Nadal never truly seemed in danger of becoming the first Australian Open defending men's champion to lose in the first round since his current coach, Carlos Moya, managed to beat Boris Becker a quarter of a century ago. Still, this was not a vintage performance by Nadal, who came into Monday's matchup of left-handers against 21-year-old Jack Draper with an 0-2 record in 2023 and six losses in his past seven outings overall. After nearly two hours of so-so play, Nadal found himself even at a set apiece. He appeared to be pulling away, taking advantage of his opponent's bout with cramps on an afternoon with the temperature at about 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 Celsius), when suddenly Draper went up by a break in the fourth set. From there, though, Nadal would not drop another game, beginning his pursuit of a record-extending 23rd Grand Slam championship with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 victory that took more than 3 1/2 hours in Rod Laver Arena. Nadal was not in peak form. All in all, it was a bit of a struggle. He tried to put a silver-lining spin on things, nonetheless. "If we put in perspective all the situation that I

went through the last six months," the 36-year-old from Spain said, "I think it was a very positive start." Americans Jessica Pegula, Coco Gauff and Danielle Collins, the 2022 runner-up at Melbourne Park, all reached the second round in the women's bracket with victories earlier Monday. The biggest surprise of the day was the withdrawal of Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios, who needs surgery on his left knee.

Sindhu, Sen among title contenders at India Open

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTD):



The country's top shuttlers, including reigning champion Lakshya Sen and double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, will look to keep their date with destiny as they will be title contenders in at least three of the five events when the India Open Super 750 begins here on Tuesday.

Indian badminton never had this good with as many as three players - Sindhu (7), Sen (10), HS Prannoy (8) in singles world's top 10 and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty at world No. 5 - all coming into the season with loads of success last year.

While seventh seed Sen and Satwik-Chirag, seeded fifth, are entering the USD 900,000 event as defending champions, Sindhu and world No. 13 Kidambi Srikanth are also former champions.

Indian badminton players Lakshya Sen and PV Sindhu with Spanish badminton player Carolina Marin and Indonesian badminton player Anthony Sinisuka Ginting during a press conference for the India Open Badminton in New Delhi, Monday, Jan. 16.

However, the past results will count for little as all the big stars of world badminton will be pitted against each other - some of them in the opening round itself - during the upgraded version of India's flagship event.

Sen and Prannoy, two most prominent figures of Indian men's singles in 2022, will engage in yet another slugfest in the opening round with the

younger of the two hoping to return the favour this time after last week's opening round reversal in Kuala Lumpur.

Sindhu's return after a long injury lay-off at the Malaysia Open was spoiled by long-time nemesis Spain's Carolina Marin, who herself is on a comeback trail having sustained two ACL injuries in both her knees in the last few years.

Healy predicts India to win Border-Gavaskar trophy 2-1

Melbourne, Jan 16 (PTD):



Former wicketkeeper-batter Ian Healy has predicted a 2-1 win for India in the four-Test series against Australia beginning at Nagpur on February 9, provided the hosts don't prepare "unreasonable wickets".

The two sides will play four Tests for the Border-Gavaskar trophy with the series extremely crucial for India, as the World Test Championship (WTC) final spot is at stake.

"They've (India) got a good team but I'm not too scared of their spinners unless they produce unreasonable wickets," Healy was quoted as saying by SEN on Monday.

"If they produce unreasonable wickets like they did half the series last time (we won't win), two wickets were just terrible, unfair, spinners jumping over your head on day one.

"So that type of thing they will play better on than we will, but if they get flat wickets that India used

to put out, nice flat batting wickets and bowlers have to work really hard, I think we can do it. But (my prediction is) 2-1 India, if (Mitchell) Starc's unavailable in the first Test," added Healy.

The Australian pace-bowling stalwart will likely miss the first Test against India due to a finger injury to his bowling hand, which he sustained during the second Test against South Africa recently. "My worry for him (Starc) not playing the first Test is that you don't have a lot of time to get the bowling in that you're going to need in the second, third and fourth Test," opined Healy.

Barcelona wins Super Cup for 1st trophy with Xavi

Madrid, Jan 16 (AP):



Barcelona's title drought with coach Xavi and without Lionel Messi is finally over. Barcelona beat Real Madrid 3-1 on Sunday to win the Spanish Super Cup at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and give its fans reasons to celebrate again after a revamping process that began following Messi's departure for Paris Saint-Germain and the arrival of former player Xavi as coach in 2021.

"We've been through some tough years, with financial difficulties, Messi's departure," Xavi said. "It was not easy to bring back a positive dynamic. This will help give us some tranquility. We've been working hard from the beginning despite all the criticism, and we have to keep working."

Barcelona had not lifted a trophy since the 2021 Copa del Rey under former coach Ronald Koeman. That was Messi's 35th and final title with Barcelona before leav-

ing amid the club's financial struggles. Robert Lewandowski, Gavi and Pedri scored a goal each in the final at King Fahd Stadium to give Barcelona its first Super Cup trophy since 2018 and its 14th overall and the first since the tournament began being played in a Final Four format in 2020 in a lucrative deal for the Spanish soccer federation. Gavi opened the scoring in the 33rd minute from close range after a pass by Lewandowski, who doubled the lead after an as-

ist by Gavi in a breakaway just before the end of the first half. Gavi also set up Pedri's close-range goal in another breakaway in the 69th. Karim Benzema scored for Madrid late in stoppage time. "We knew we couldn't miss this opportunity," Barcelona captain Sergio Busquets said. "We've been going through changes at the club and I think this triumph will make us stronger and allow us to keep competing, keep growing and keep fighting for titles."

PM Modi holds roadshow as BJP national executive begins

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

Enthusiastic BJP workers and supporters lined the roads to greet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his roadshow here as the party's two-day national executive began in Delhi on Monday.

In an atmosphere enlivened by music and the cheering crowd, the roadshow started from Patel Chowk and continued till the NDMC convention centre. People showered Modi with flower petals and chanted slogans in his support.

Huge cutouts of the prime minister were placed along the road, besides several posters highlighting various initiatives of the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at supporters during a roadshow, in New Delhi, Monday.

government and also India's presidency of the G20.

Stages had been erected

at places. Folk artistes from several states performed on some of them, while others blared patriotic songs.

BJP president J P Nadda welcomed Modi at the venue of the party's meeting, which started upon the

prime minister's arrival.

While Modi has been holding roadshows frequently, it is not very often that he does it ahead of the party's executive meet, which has been organised several times in the national capital now.

BJP leaders noted that Modi had held a roadshow ahead of the party's national executive in Odisha, and added that the exercise proved to be helpful in galvanising cadre and supporters.

With Lok Sabha polls due in the first half of next year, the enthusiastic roadshow will also help energise the party's Delhi unit after its loss to the Aam Aadmi Party in the recent municipal polls, they said.

SC grants Centre four weeks to respond to plea against age restriction for conducting pre-natal diagnostic tests

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday granted the Centre four weeks to file its response to a plea on the age restriction of 35 years on women for conducting pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic tests.

The matter came up for hearing before a bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka.

The counsel appearing for the Centre requested for some time to file the response confined to the aspect on which the court had issued notice on October 17 last year.

"Counsel for the respondent seeks time to

file counter affidavit... needful be done within four weeks," the bench said, adding that rejoinder, if any, be filed within two weeks thereafter.

The top court posted the plea, filed by advocate Meera Kaura Patel, for hearing after eight weeks.

In its October 17, 2022 order, the bench had noted the petitioner had referred to section 4(3)(i) of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 to contend that the age limit of 35 years is a restriction on the reproductive rights of

women. As per the provision of the Act, no pre-natal diagnostic techniques shall be used or conducted on a pregnant woman below 35 years of age.

In a significant ruling on reproductive rights of women, the apex court had earlier held that all women are entitled to safe and legal abortion till 24 weeks of pregnancy under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, and making any distinction on the basis of their marital status is "constitutionally unsustainable".

Punjab CM should not be under anyone's remote control: Rahul Gandhi

Hoshiarpur (Pb), Jan 16 (PTI):

In a swipe at Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said he should not be under anyone's remote control and should run the state independently.

Punjab should be run from Punjab. It should not be run from Delhi, said Gandhi while addressing a gathering here during his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"I want to ask Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann that you are the chief minister of Punjab, Punjab should be run from Punjab only. Bhagwant Mann should not come under pressure of (Arvind) Kejriwal ji and Delhi.

"You should work independently and should not be under the remote control of anyone," said Gandhi.

Bhagwant Mann has been facing criticism from the opposition parties which allege that all major decisions of his government are being taken in Delhi by AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Gandhi said the Yatra was getting an overwhelming response and targeted the BJP government at the Centre.

Hatred and fear are being spread in the country and "brother is being pitted against brother", he alleged.

He also attacked the BJP government over the issue of unemployment and inflation. He again said that the Yatra was opening the shops of love in the market of hatred.

Lucknow, Jan 16 (PTI):

Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav on Monday met uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav at his residence amid speculation that the Jaswantnagar MLA would be given major responsibility in the party.

Akhilesh Yadav reached Shivpal Yadav's residence at Vikramaditya Marg where he is said to have discussed strengthening of the party's organisation.

"Akhileshji met Shivpalji at his residence in the evening. I don't know about the discussions between them. This

Suspended Cong MLA Rajesh Kachchap seeks 2 weeks to appear before ED

Ranchi, Jan 16 (PTI):

Suspended Congress MLA in Jharkhand Rajesh Kachchap, who is under investigation in a cash haul case, on Monday sought two weeks' time for appearing before the Enforcement Directorate (ED), citing pre-scheduled engagements.

On January 13, another suspended Congress MLA Irfan Ansari had also sought time for two weeks from the central agency on health grounds.

Kachchap was summoned by the agency in connection with cash recovery from a car in which he was travelling

along with party MLAs from the Jharkhand unit of the Congress, Irfan Ansari and Naman Bixal, an official said. The three MLAs were arrested by the West Bengal Police after Rs 49 lakh in cash was recovered from their vehicle in Howrah district in July last year.

Speaking to PTI over the phone, Kachchap said, "I am in Delhi now for a pre-scheduled programme. Our advocate Chandra Bhanu Singh, who is looking after the case of all three MLAs, visited the ED office today and pleaded for some more time."

The MLA said he has re-

quested the central agency for a date after January 26. On December 24, the ED questioned Congress MLA Kumar Jaimangal Singh alias Anup Singh for over nine hours in connection with the case.

Singh had lodged a complaint with Ranchi's Argora police station, alleging that the three MLAs had offered him Rs 10 crore and a ministerial berth for toppling the JMM-led Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand. Singh had claimed that he was not summoned as an accused but as a complainant in the case.

Bengaluru, Jan 16 (PTI):

Italy-born Sonia Gandhi initially struggled to learn Indian traditions and disliked politics, her daughter and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said on Monday.

Addressing a women-centric convention organised here by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee in the poll-bound State, the Congress leader said she was brought up by two brave and strong women - her grandmother Indira Gandhi and mother Sonia Gandhi.

She recalled that she was eight-years-old when Indira Gandhi lost her 33-year-old son. But the very



AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi speaks during her 'Na Nayaki' convention at Palace Grounds, in Bengaluru, Monday.

next day of Sanjay Gandhi's death, she went to work to serve the nation and that was the sense of duty and her "inner shakti". Indira Gandhi continued to serve the nation until she died.

Priyanka Gandhi said

Sonia Gandhi fell in love with Rajiv Gandhi at the age of 21.

"She (Sonia) came all the way from Italy to India to get married to him. She struggled to learn our traditions. She learnt the ways of India. She im-

bibed everything from Indira Gandhi and at the age of 44, she lost her husband.

Even though she disliked politics, she took the path to serving the nation and she served it all her life till today when she is 76 years old," Priyanka Gandhi said.

Priyanka said she had learnt a "very important thing" from Indira Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and hundreds of ordinary women who struggle everyday in life.

"No matter what happens to you in your life, no matter how big a tragedy you face, how deep your struggles are... whether at home or work or outside, you have the capacity to stand up and fight for yourself," Priyanka said.

'MAGH MELA'



A devotee prepares tea during the annual 'Magh Mela', in Prayagraj, Monday.

EOW files supplementary charge sheet in Rs 200 Cr extortion case involving Suresh Chandrasekhar

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

The Delhi Police on Monday filed a supplementary charge sheet in connection with the Rs 200 crore extortion case involving alleged fraudster Suresh Chandrasekhar.

Chandrasekhar has been accused of impersonating top government officials in order to extort about Rs 200 crore from Aditi Singh, the wife of Shivinder Mohan Singh, the former owner of pharma major Ranbaxy. The alleged conman was claimed to have scammed Aditi Singh with the promise of securing the release of her husband who was in jail in a money laundering case.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi police claimed in the charge sheet that Mumbai-based Pinky Irani, a close aide to

Chandrasekhar, introduced him to Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez. Fernandez, not named as an accused in the main case, also appeared before the court. She is an accused in the money laundering probe related to the alleged scam.

The fresh supplementary charge sheet, filed before Additional Sessions Judge Shailendra Malik, also said police have recorded the statements of several people including those of Bollywood actors Fernandez and Nora Fatehi. The court is likely to decide on whether to take cognizance of the charge sheet on Tuesday.

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Shivpal in line for 'big responsibility' after meeting with SP chief Akhilesh

is a matter of the family," Rajendra Chowdhury, the Samajwadi Party's chief spokesperson, told PTI.

When asked if Shivpal Yadav would be given a major responsibility in the party, Chowdhury said, "Yes. Shivpalji will be given a big responsibility."

He said the constitution of the party's national and state executives would be done soon, maybe this month. Akhilesh Yadav dissolved all party units, only retaining state unit chief Naresh Uttam, last July.

Once estranged, the uncle-nephew duo came together during the Mainpuri bypoll follow-

ing the death of Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav. Shivpal Yadav also accepted the Samajwadi Party flag in Etawah and vowed to work to strengthen the party.

Subsequently, the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) flag on his SUV was replaced by the Samajwadi Party's banner.

After being sidelined by the Samajwadi Party in 2016, Shivpal Yadav formed the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) in 2018 and contested against nephew Akshay Yadav from Firozabad. The seat was won by the BJP.

Opposition parties question need for remote voting machines

New Delhi, Jan 16 (PTI):

Opposition parties on Monday questioned the need to deploy remote voting machines and urged the Election Commission to address the issue of urban apathy towards the poll process.

"No opposition party wants to see the demonstration of a remote voting machine (RVM). First the issue of the need to have such a machine should be settled," senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh told reporters after participating in a meeting of political parties convened by the Election Commission (EC) for the demonstration of the workings of an

RVM. The former Madhya Pradesh chief minister said he felt that there would be no RVM demonstration till there is a consensus on having one. No political party is prepared to see the demonstration, he said. "The idea of RVM is not acceptable," Singh said and added that the commission should address concerns about electronic voting machines raised by eminent citizens of the country. The EC should also address the issue of urban apathy towards the election process, the Congress leader said. The poll panel had invited representatives of eight national and 57 recognised state parties for an RVM

demonstration here. The commission has maintained that RVMs, developed by public sector undertaking Electronics Corporation of India, will be a stand alone device not connected to the internet in any way. The initiative, if implemented, can lead to a "social transformation" for migrants, the EC had said last month.

Each machine can handle up to 72 constituencies, allowing migrant voters to cast their votes from a remote polling booth. Parties were also asked to give in writing their views by the end of January on issues such as changes required in the law to allow the use of RVMs.

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